San Juanico Bridge closed to traffic

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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THE TRICK is for protesting farmers to look the part to scare the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research during its annual meeting at the Shangri-la Makati.

Sexy star stops traffic, gets sued

By Nelson Flores

IF sexy star Diana Zubiri were hitchhiking, would you give her a ride?

Apparently, many would. Zubiri quite literally stopped traffic

SEXY/ A6

Fil-Ams to set up Namfrel-type body

Group is led by Filipina magnate

By Leah Makabenta

SAN FRANCISCO (Via PLDT)—Overseas voting could be cleaner and more honest, if a group of Filipino organizations in the United States will carry out its plan to set up a Namfrel-type election watchdog body here for the elections in 2004.

Business tycoon Loida Nicolas-Lewis, chair of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (Naffaa), said the Naffaa would soon submit its proposal and credentials to the Commission on Elections for it to be allowed to play the equivalent of Namfrel overseas.

Lewis announced the Naffaa proposal at a forum here in honor of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday night.

The President's visit here on her way to and from the summit of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Mexico has provoked interest in the absentee voting bill which would give the vote for the first time to Filipinos residing overseas.

The Naffaa had sought a private meeting with the President who welcomed the proposal as it would reduce the costs of conducting a political exercise abroad.

The President also enthusiastically took up Lewis' idea of renaming the absentee voting bill the overseas voting bill.

Lewis reasoned that "while we are physically present here, our hearts have remained always in the Philippines."

The President said she would pass on the idea to both houses of Congress.

The Naffaa is a private, non-profit, non-

FIL-AMS/ A17

28 Abus captured in Jolo, says Army

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Soldiers have captured 28 suspected bandits believed to be part of an Abu Sayyaf group holding three Indonesians and four Filipino women on Jolo island, an Army commander yesterday reported.

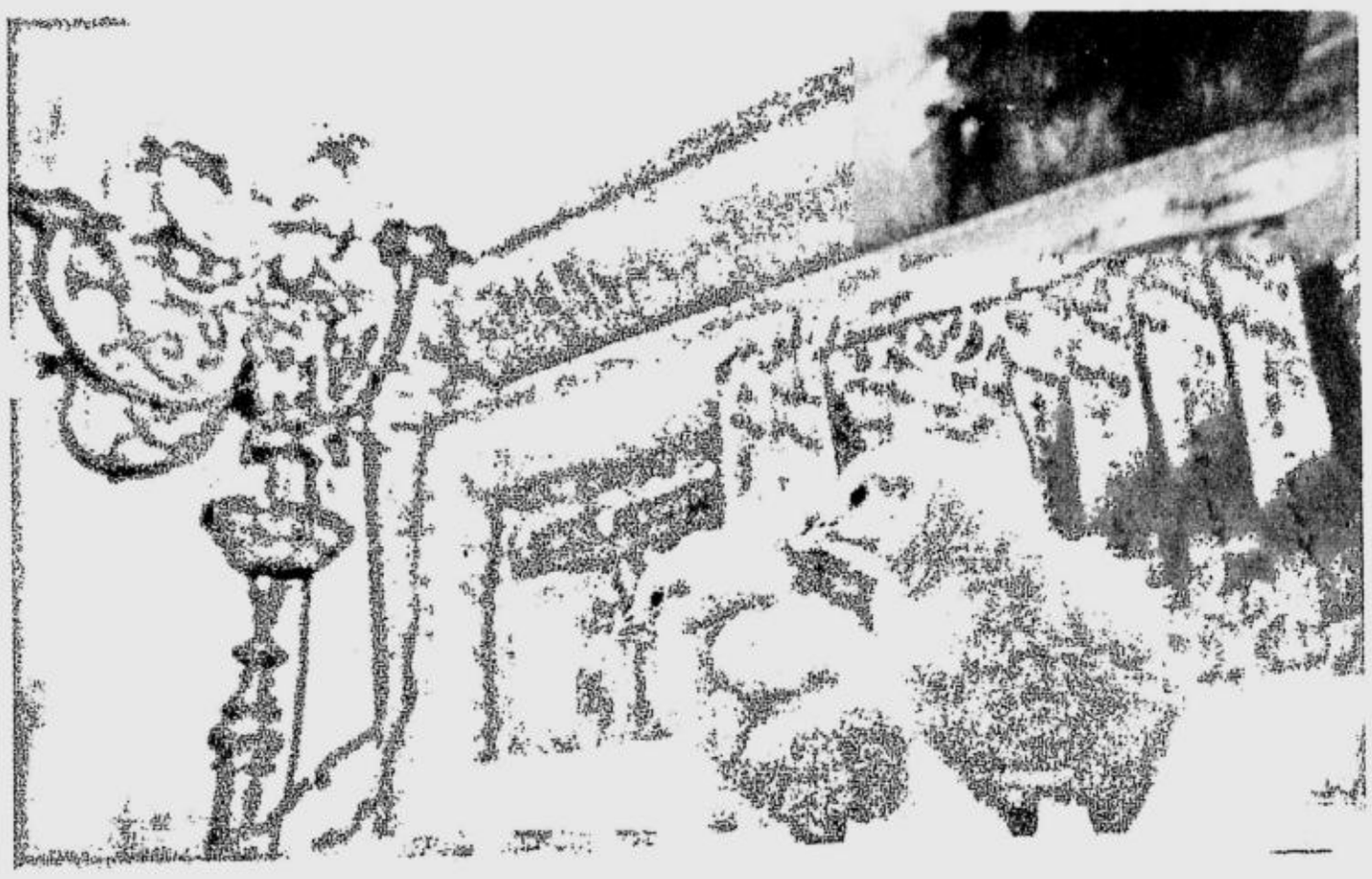
Several Zamboanga City policemen, however, are now in hot water after they mistook five youths for Abu Sayyaf bandits on Saturday night. Police released the five youths, two of whom suffered gunshot wounds during a car chase, after interrogating them at the Southern Command headquarters.

Vice Mayor Erico Basilio Fabian has called for an investigation of the incident following a complaint by Severino Landigin, city director of the Department of Trade and Industry and father-in-law of one of the youths arrested.

Even so, such lapses on the part of the Zamboanga City police have not prevented other government forces from pursuing their so-called "Operation End Game," a military offensive in nearby Jolo aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf bandits linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the 104th Infantry

28 ABUS/ A17



MURDER MOST FOWL
Local folklore says that to torment the unknown killer of a dead man such as Arturo Eufemia, who won P19 million in the lotto, place a chick or two on top of his coffin. And so there they are chirping—and, it is hoped, chipping at the killer's conscience—at Our Lady of Peace Chapel in Antipolo City where Eufemia's remains lie. ROMEO GACAD/AFP

Abra mayor's kin pin murder on vice mayor

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGUED, Abra—The family of slain Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren has accused the town's vice mayor of being the brains behind the Tuesday gun slaying of the mayor in a church in Calauan, Laguna.

"This is the brainchild of Edwin," said Pedro Benwaren, former long-time mayor of Tineg and father of the slain mayor.

The elder Benwaren was referring to Vice Mayor Edwin Crisologo, a known political rival of the mayor.

But Crisologo, in an interview with the INQUIRER at his house here on Wednesday, said he had nothing to do with Benwaren's murder.

"I am saddened by the unexpected death of the mayor. But I do not have any knowledge of (the brains behind

ABRA/ A17

Very sorry

The INQUIRER sends its deepest apologies to the family of the late Mayor Clarence Benwaren for the typographical error, "small-time mayor," that appeared last Wednesday in the lead sentence of the banner story about his murder. The phrase should have read, "small-town mayor." The INQUIRER also condoles with the family.

Nat'l Museum to declare 'Parisian' cultural treasure

By Juliet Javellana

BETTER late than never.

The National Museum will convene a panel to declare "Parisian Life," the 110-year-old painting by Juna Luna, as a national cultural treasure.

The declaration will prevent the controversial painting, bought at a Christie's Hong Kong auction on Sunday by the Government Service Insurance System for some P46 million, from ever being sold again.

Deputy Director Cecilio Salcedo, chief of the museum's Cultural Properties Division, said the declaration would also enable the museum to borrow the painting from the GSIS.

He said Museum Director Corazon Alvina is expected to convene the panel "very, very soon" to consider the painting's appropriate classification.

He said the panel would be composed of artists and art historians selected specifically for the purpose, but declined to name them.

The panel would then submit its recommendation to the museum's board of trustees for final approval, he added.

But GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia has said that "Parisian Life" would never be sold for as long as the GSIS, the pension fund of gov-

NAT'L/ A17

'Black ghost' walks deck of old Navy ship

By Jerry Esplanada

SPRATLYS, South China Sea—They call him "Boy Negro."

"He's black, tall and heavyset and he's always in white Navy uniform," says a former crewman of the Navy's landing ship tank BRP Sierra Madre, also known as LT 57. "He's also very fond of waking people up in the middle of the night, every time politely saying the same line—"Chief, you're on duty now. Please wake up!"

But Boy Negro is not like you and me.

"He is a ghost inhabiting that former American ship which saw action in both the Second World War and the Vietnam War," claims CPO Leticio Mantilla.

The phantom has yet to reveal his name or origin. "My colleagues came up with that alias because of his color," says Mantilla, who served on the Sierra Madre for more than eight years.

BLACK/ A6

PHANTOMS on board the BRP Laguna (LT 501) continue to haunt the crew including Ensign Bernadette Respicio, the lone woman serving in the aged workhorse of Naval Forces West. DENNIS SABANGAN

UN tells gov'ts, rebels: Stop using child warriors

THEIR capture bolstered the military's charge that the communist New People's Army has been recruiting minors in its 33-year-old guerrilla war on the government.

Two girls, aged 16 and 17, were captured Monday afternoon after soldiers of the 20th Infantry Battalion overran an NPA camp in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. Soldiers recovered six M-16 Armalite rifles, an M-14 rifle and several grenades.

The two, who were left behind by their NPA comrades in the retreat, are undergoing "psychological rehabilitation" at the headquarters of the Army's 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro.

"Their capture proves that communists are indeed using minors on their frontlines in gross violation of the Geneva Convention and United Nations laws on war," Maj. Johnny Macanas, an Army spokesperson, said yesterday.

Officials of the 9,000-strong armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines have ad-

UN/ A4

People not in the mood to party

By Martin P. Marfil, TJ Burgonio and Armand N. Nocum

PEOPLE may not be in a mood to party in cemeteries this week because of the continuing terrorist threats and the presence of soldiers.

Besides, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) appealed to Catholics to accord the dead due respect by not playing loud music, gambling or drinking alcohol in cemeteries during the observance of All Saints' Day on Friday and All Souls' Day on Saturday.

More than 100,000 police and soldiers went on high alert across the country yesterday to prevent attacks by any extremist groups. The alert followed a spate of recent bomb attacks by suspected Muslim radicals in Indonesia's Bali tourist resort, which killed more than 180 people, and in Metro Manila and Mindanao, which killed 20.

Cemeteries, where millions of Filipinos traditionally gather on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 and 2, are among the possible "high-value targets" of terrorist attacks, according to Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, head of the military's public

PEOPLE A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern sections. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/31/02

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catarman	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Sagging San Juanico Bridge closed to traffic

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The historic San Juanico Bridge, which connects Leyte and Samar provinces, was closed to traffic yesterday after one of its slabs on the Leyte side "settled" while undergoing rehabilitation work, blocking the flow of traffic and stranding thousands of travelers trying to get home in time for All Saints' Day on Nov. 1.

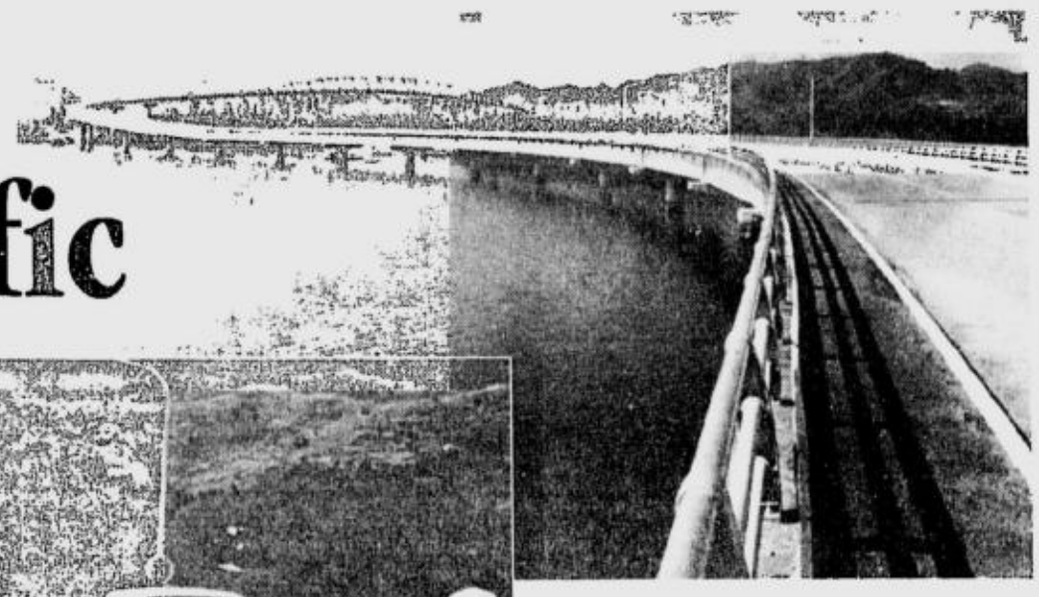
Nobody was reported injured in the incident but passenger buses, vans and trucks carrying goods from the Samar side were stalled, forming a long queue that as of 11 a.m. yesterday that stretched at least one kilometer.

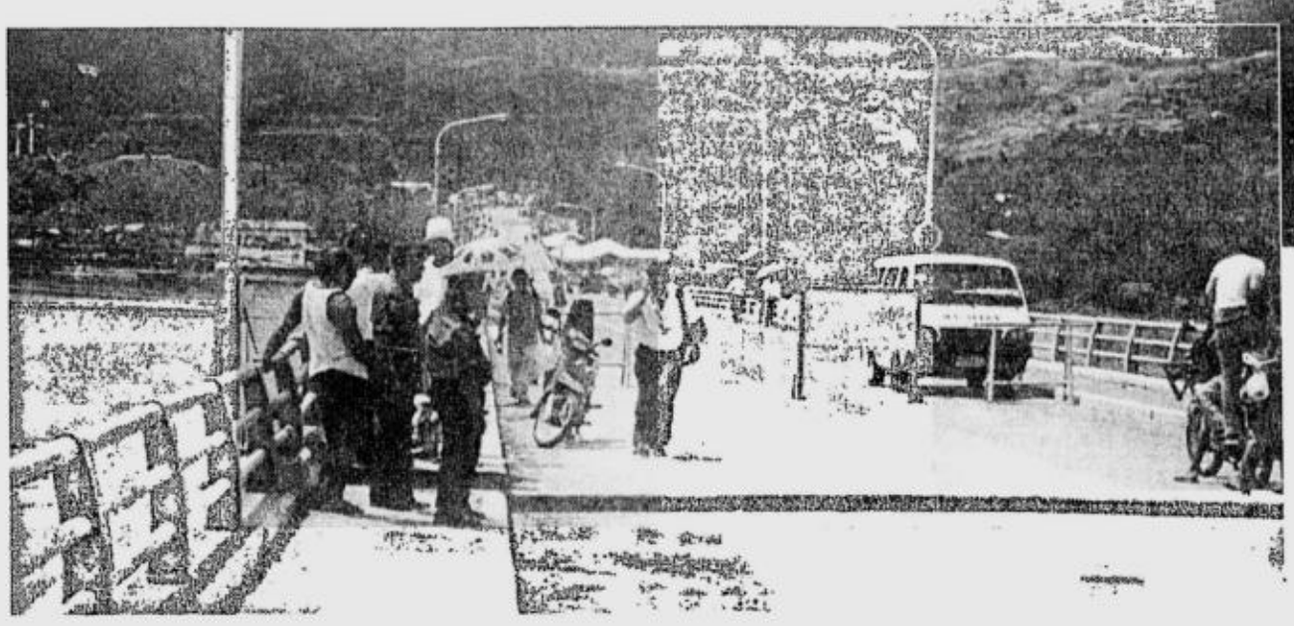
Passengers in a hurry to get across the 2.2-km bridge either had to walk or ride on motorcycles and tricycles, which were the only vehicles allowed to cross the damaged span.

Philippine National Police officer Benjie Rosales, duty officer at the time, said in an interview that the damage might have been caused by overloaded vehicles.

Rosales said the bridge had been closed to vehicles weighing more than 20 tons but the Department of Public Works and Highways lifted the weight limit on Oct. 20. This despite the DPWH's own notice that the extent of the current repair work on the bridge had yet to be determined, he said.

DPWH Secretary Simeon A. Datumanong, in a statement, said that based on reports, "the bottom chord of the simple truss on the Leyte side developed a punching shear caused by metal fatigue and salt water corrosion, causing the slab on the 30-year-old bridge to settle."





LONG WALK ACROSS: Commuters walk the span of the 2.2-kilometer long San Juanico Bridge, which was closed to traffic after one of its slabs sagged while undergoing rehabiliation work. The closure stranded thousands of All Saints' Day travelers. TINA DUMLAO

In other words, the particular slab sank lower than the other slabs.

Jimmy Chan, project engineer for the span's P700-million rehabilitation, told the INQUIRER he expected traffic on the bridge to return to normal by 5 p.m. today but only on one lane.

Chan said the repair was being conducted by Sumitomo Construction, which is also handling the rehabilitation of the bridge.

The bridge connects Leyte and Samar islands, straddling the San Juanico Strait. It is acknowledged to be the longest free-standing span in Southeast Asia.

It was built during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, whose wife, Imelda Romualdez, was from Tolosa, Leyte.

It was opened to the public with great fanfare on July 2, 1973, on the 45th birthday of the former first lady.

From the start, the bridge showed signs of being below standard. Travelers would report it swayed so much they feared being thrown into the water.

In January, the DPWH began rehabilitation work on the bridge, targeting to finish the work by November.

But at about 10:30 a.m. yesterday, the truss which was connected to pier no. 12 on the bridge's Leyte side, on which the slab rested, gave way.

"The material fatigue was mainly due to traffic and daily use," Chan said.

Pier no. 12, he added, was not one of the piers scheduled for rehabilitation. He could not say how much repairing the new damage would cost but it could run into the millions of pesos.

In the meantime, Chan said, the span's left lane would be closed to traffic, while vehicles weighing more than 20 tons would not be allowed across it.

"To the traveling public, please bear with us. This was not intentional," he said.

Chan added all the bridge's 42 piers would be inspected to determine if similar erosions had occurred.

On Sept. 22, a barge carrying construction supplies rammed the bridge, damaging three of its 42 piers and causing about P25 million in damage.

The LCC Challenger, which was under subcontract to Sumitomo Construction, was transporting aggregates needed for the rehabilitation work.

Damaged were piers 34, 35 and 36, all located on the Samar side of the bridge. The DPWH in Eastern Visayas filed a damage suit against Sumitomo Construction after the incident.

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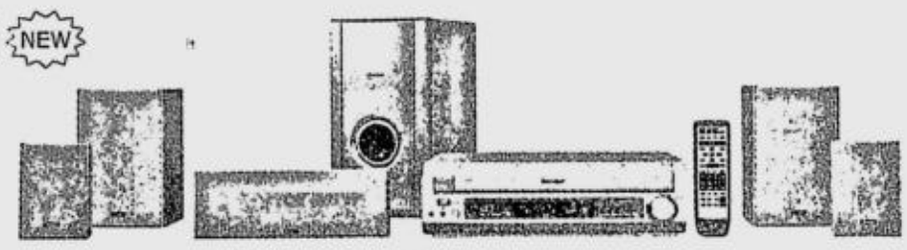

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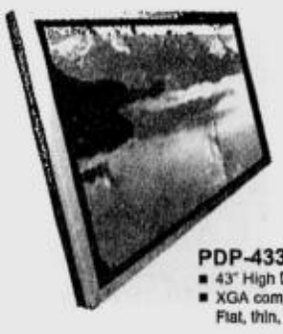

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SAME RAPS, NEW FORUM

DAR employees file charge vs Braganza

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza is facing another investigation for old charge—lavish spending.

Graft charges filed by the Department of Agrarian Reform Employees Association with the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday stemmed from Braganza's alleged disbursement of P53 million last June to celebrate the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program's 14th anniversary.

The seven-page complaint detailed the expenses: P3.7 million for provincial consultations; P7 million for expositions at SM Megamall and Robinsons Galleria; P7 million for a national convention at the Fontana Resort in Clark Field, Pampanga; P2.3 million for participation in the Independence Day parade, on June 12 for which 2,000 DAR personnel were billeted in several hotels; P3 million in consultancy fees; P8 million for transportation allowances; P20 million for television and radio advertisements; and P75,000 for 5,500 t-shirts.

Routine

Darea said these activities had duplicated "long-standing" programs of DAR's central and field offices. For instance, union president Violeta Bonilla told the INQUIRER, provincial consultations were part of the department's mandated routine.

Joseph Entero, Darea counsel, said the union submitted "sufficient" evidence, but that the Ombudsman might summon other concerned agencies, like the Commission on Audit, for additional documents.

The COA earlier submitted a report to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), showing that the DAR spent only P7 million for the controversial celebration. Darea had filed an earlier case on the same charges with the PAGC, which is currently investigating Braganza.

Entero said the COA documents were merely a "sample audit" which Braganza claimed as the actual total expense.

"Accommodations for the Fontana convention alone cost P6 million," he said.

Union officials said the case was elevated to the Office of the Ombudsman because Braganza was "obstinate." They said they had hoped Braganza would resign when the PAGC case was filed. Instead, the employees said, the boss "persecuted" them.

Best 'performer'

The Darea officers had gone to the extent of asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to sack Braganza. But the President took the young secretary's side, saying he was one of the best "performers" in her Cabinet.

Braganza earlier told PAGC that the charges were "blatant and malicious lies," and that he was actually the one being persecuted.

He said the charges were "squid tactics" meant to divert public attention from accusations that the union leaders had mismanaged funds.

"I do not know why they can't wait for the PAGC decision which is expected in 30 days," he said, implying that the union was "forum-shopping."

Entero said the union was set to file at least three more cases against Braganza—one for spending P7 million on the DAR's website, another for the P5.7 million lease of finger scan equipment, and a third for the "harassment" of Darea officials.

Goodbye, centavo

By Clarissa S. Batino

FORGET about the line, "Without a centavo, there wouldn't be a peso."

As far as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is concerned, it is about time the one-centavo coin was phased out, because producing it has become impractical and uneconomical.

With the exchange rate of P53 to a dollar, the centavo now serves practically no purpose except maybe as shingle for roofs, a bank official jested—and a cheaper one at that compared to the real thing.

He said one-, five- and 10-centavo coins were six percent copper and 94 percent steel, which made the one-centavo coin ideal roofing material.

"We would like to demonitize the centavo because it is costing us more (than it is worth) to produce it," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura. But he said it would necessitate an amendment to the currency law, which required the central bank to issue a one-centavo coin.

The current centavo features the hero Melchora Aquino, also known as Tandang Sora.

Weighed against the launch last June of the P200 bill with the images of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the late President Diosdado Macapagal, the planned phaseout is expected to draw criticisms.

As of Sept. 30, the central bank said, 10,026,121 pieces of one-centavo coins were in circulation.

Last year, the BSP started to replace the P10-bill with a coin but, according to the bank official, the new coins were being kept by people "in piggybanks" and, therefore, have not been circulated widely.

PEA exec defies Palace, says to quit is a disgrace

By Dona Pazzibugan

PUBLIC Estates Authority director Rodolfo Tuazon continued to ignore Malacañang's renewed call on all PEA directors to resign following the controversy over the alleged P600 million overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Tuazon, a former Samar congressman who is said to speak on behalf of the board, maintained that he would only resign after the investigation is complete.

"It is not an affront against the President if I graciously turn down calls for my resignation. Staying put is a matter of respect, dignity and honor," he said in a statement.

"The call for my resignation is premised on the assumption that I might use my office to influence the investigation. Far from it, I have not talked to anybody distinctly connected with the ongoing investigation," he added.

He reiterated his promise to resign irrevocably from PEA once the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission completes its investigation, whatever the result be.

"To force me to resign (now) would be violative of the constitutional right to due process as it is tantamount to prejudging the case," Tuazon stressed.

Malacañang earlier asked PEA directors to go on leave to ensure an impartial probe of the alleged anomaly.

But a few weeks ago President Macapagal Arroyo called on them to resign altogether. She said this is what the public wants them to do due to the controversy.

Tuazon said PEA director Sulficio Tagud Jr., who disclosed the alleged overpricing, should be the one to resign for "telling wild lies."

Tagud, however, has also refused to resign.

Only PEA director Joemari Gerochi had offered to resign, which was promptly accepted by the President.

Tuazon said he had nothing to do with the irregularity since he was appointed after the Macapagal Boulevard was inaugurated.

He said he did not want to cap his long years of government service by stepping down in disgrace when the charges against him have yet to be proven.

DFA not pushing for Indon's release

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs is not pushing for the release of convicted Indonesian terrorist Agus Dwikarna or a prisoner swap involving him.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said that there was no request from the Indonesian government for Dwikarna's release, adding that Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri herself had not issued a formal request for his release.

"Agus Dwikarna is convicted by a local court for illegal possession of explosives. There is no reason why he should be released," Ople said in a news briefing.

"I met with the Indonesian president in Jakarta but she did not ask for his release. However, some politicians in Indonesia wanted her to intervene for his release," Ople added.

Ople said that the DFA was not in favor of the release or prisoner swap.

"I never asked for his release. It was (presidential adviser for special concerns) Norberto Gonzales who asked for it," he said.

Dwikarna was nabbed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in March after he was found in possession of dangerous explosives.

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Corpus stays as spy chief–Palace

By Dona Pazzibugan

WHETHER military intelligence chief, Col. Victor Corpus is effective in sniffing out terrorist plots is not a matter for public debate, Malacañang said.

Only President Macapagal-Arroyo can decide on that, and so far she believes that Corpus is effective.

Some lawmakers have demanded Corpus' resignation as head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) after a series of deadly bombings this month.

But Ms Macapagal is standing by Corpus because "he has proven to be a person of integrity and honesty," said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"Our point is that the intelligence chief can not be evaluated in public. It's a (matter of) trust between the President and the Department of National Defense," he said.

Tiglao said the DND could not disclose the extent of Corpus' intelligence activities without compromising them.

"Of course the intelligence business can't be 100 percent perfect, but the President considers the batting average still good," he added.

He said other nations like the United States and recently, Indonesia also suffered terrorist attacks despite their reputed efficient secret service.

Corpus, who had joined the New People's Army early in his career, was named intelligence chief when Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency in January 2001.

REMINDER

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS (SHJ) Tomorrow, First Friday, November 1, 2002.

The SHJ FOUNDATION is giving Statues for Chapels, Schools, Hospitals, Dormitories and other Public Places (NOT for Residences), and pictures with Prayers.

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Cops told: Account for all explosives

By J.L. Javellana

SURIGAO del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay has asked the Philippine National Police to account for all materials used in making explosives that were sold in the past two years.

Pichay, chair of the House defense committee, warned that some of these materials may have found their way to the black market as evidenced by reports that nitrocellulose, ammonium nitrate, gunpowder and blasting devices are readily available to anyone, including criminals and terrorists.

Pichay said explosive materials are also commonly used for industrial purposes and agriculture.

But he said that illegal entities like miners in Mt. Diwalwal, dynamite fishermen and unlicensed fireworks manufacturers were able to buy these materials from the black market.

Pichay called for an inventory of all materials traded in the past two years by companies engaged in the import and sale of explosives materials.

Pichay identified the 30 or so companies which have permits from the PNP Firearms and Explosives Division to import materials for mining, quarrying and exploration, industrial and agricultural purposes.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit #3736 Series of 2002

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

UN tells gov'ts, rebels: Stop using child warriors

From page A1

mitted the NPA was recruiting minors but only to serve as spies and couriers, not as fighters.

The military's announcement of the capture of the two minors came as the head of the United Nations Children's Fund demanded that government and guerrilla armies stop recruiting children.

At a news conference in Bangkok, Unicef Executive Director Carol Bellamy said a new Unicef report and other research "have clearly shown that thousands of children are still being recruited" often by force into state and non-state armies in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the Unicef report, as many as one-quarter of the world's 300,000 child soldiers are serving in the Philippines and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region, and soldiers recruited as young as 7 are often forced to commit murder and rape.

"We want government and non-state parties to stop and desist," said Bellamy.

The report, released Wednesday, detailed the methods used to recruit the children, the violent acts they were forced to commit, and the consequences of their experience—from nightmares to lack of education and illiteracy.

Recruiting children under 18 for combat violates international law and should be considered "an illegal and morally reprehensible practice that has no place in civilized societies," Bellamy said.

Unicef's study, titled "Adult Wars, Child Soldiers," is based on interviews with 69 current and former child combatants from the Philippines, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Burma and Papua New Guinea. Those interviewed from the Philippines were child soldiers of the NPA and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The children said they suffered the mistreatment of brutal training sessions, hard labor and severe punishments. Some saw their own families and friends killed.

SAMBOO, a 12-year-old soldier in the Karen rebel army fighting against Burma's military government, poses in a jungle camp on the border with Thailand in photo taken in January 2000. REUTERS

Rape, murder

Others said they had been forced to commit or witness atrocities, including rape and murder. Nearly all those interviewed had been given weapons and served in combat. Their average recruitment age was 13 years.

"They are trained to commit violence. They become violators themselves and violent violators," Bellamy said. "If they are girls ... they usually are taken to provide sex at very young ages."

"We hope that these voices of children will be heard by those who are exploiting children and that this exploitation will stop," Bellamy said. She described the children's voices as "clearer, fresher, more compelling."

One of the child soldiers, identified only as Vasco, said he joined a militia in East Timor for eight months when he was 14.

"When the militia came, my parents were very afraid and said to me, 'If the militia asks you to do anything, just do it or they will kill us,'" the Unicef report quoted Vasco as saying.

"They ordered us to rape," he said. "They beat me with a piece of wood every day. I wake up still from bad dreams. I am still constantly afraid."

The youngest of the 67 boys and two girls interviewed was a Burmese boy who said he was 7 when he was recruited by government soldiers who promised him food and candy. Another Burmese boy, who joined the military at 9, said he was dragged from his house because he was considered an adult.

A report released two weeks ago by Human Rights Watch claimed that as many as 70,000 soldiers in the Burmese national army were under 18, with the vast majority forcibly conscripted. It said anti-government guerrilla forces also used children. Both sides denied the allegations.

Record of voices

The Unicef report stopped short of making a full accounting of child soldiers in each country of the region. "It is a record of their voices, rather than a search for numbers," the report said.

The Unicef study called for demobilizing all child soldiers; helping them rejoin society, especially through education and vocational training; and providing appropriate psychological care and social support for former combatants.

Unicef is seeking global observance of a 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child that set the legal minimum age for recruitment at 15. It is also calling for the ratification of an optional protocol to the convention that outlaws the involvement of children under 18 in hostilities. ***Reports from Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP and AFP***

Voices of Filipino child warriors

HERE are some of the voices of Filipino child soldiers interviewed in the Unicef study, "Adult Wars, Child Soldiers."

I joined the army four years ago when I was 12 years old. I was recruited by the ustadz (the one who leads prayers at the mosque) in my community. I was told that the military/government was the enemy of the Muslims. I got to know Ustadz Yusuf when he attended the prayers in the mosque. I knew the Ustadz for almost a month or more. I was recruited in my municipality. The ustadz asked me to join the jihad. I became a soldier voluntarily. *(He joined when he was 12; he is now 16.)*

I joined the movement to avenge my father's death in the hands of the military. When I was 7 years old, I saw the military take away my defenseless father from our house. My father was a member of the movement but was always drinking with his military and Cafgu friends so the NPA was led to suspect that my father was supplying the military with information. But I saw the military take away my father so I joined my grandfather who went to the mountains to join the movement. *(He joined when he was 7; he is now 15.)*

I was 14 when I joined the NPA. I was out of school then. My grandfather and grandmother sent me to school but I did not take my studies seriously. I had a friend who joined the movement. I thought that my life was meaningless because I had no parents to look after me. I went along with (my friend) because I thought what the heck—my life was meaningless anyway. *(He joined when he was 14, he is now 16.)*

When I arrived at Camp Abubakar, I was given an Armalite. I was trained by Ustadz Yusuf, (who reads prayers in the mosque) who also served as our commander. When I knew how to shoot and handle guns, I was allowed to fight. I was trained the moment I arrived. We had shooting exercises and had a physical fitness program. For 45 days we had a daily training program. I had duties like looking after the carabaos or had post duties/lookout. *(He joined when he was 12; he is now 16.)*

I carried an Armalite, an M16. I was trained on how to use a gun, how to fire it, how to dismantle and assemble it. That was the training I received. The training included hopping over rocks, crawling, rolling. That was for three weeks. *(He joined when he was 14; he is now 16.)*

According to our commanders, when we capture an enemy, we must kill them immediately if they resist. But if they will surrender, we will give them a chance since they might embrace Islam. *(He joined when he was 16; he is now 19.)*

I felt terrified when I was hiding in the graveyard. I was afraid the soldiers would capture and rape me. I knew a 16-year-old girl who was caught by the soldiers. The next day, we found her with her clothes torn off and her body was riddled with bullets. One of us turned her over and it seemed to me that the bullets drew a picture on the earth. *(She joined when she was 13; she is now 16.)*

There were girls (in the MILF). Girls were not allowed to fight. They were limited to cooking, cleaning and helping in the clinic. There were orphans also. *(He joined when he was 12; he is now 16.)*

CASE DISMISSED

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Solon seeks probe of diesel smuggling

REPORTS that the government is losing some P1.2 billion annually due to the smuggling of diesel fuel through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Area have prompted a congressman to call for an investigation into possible violations of Republic Act 8479, otherwise known as the Oil Industry Deregulation Act.

In a privileged speech, House minority leader Carlos M. Padilla said two oil companies operate in the SBMA—the Subic Bay Fuels Co. Inc. (SBFC) and the Subic Bay Distribution Inc. (SBDI)—both joint ventures with the Petroleum Authority of Thailand and Coastal Aruba Refining Co. of Aruba, which is now owned by El Paso Corp. of Texas, USA.

Padilla said the SBFC imports petroleum products duty-free and stores these in its facility inside the SBMA. From the SBMA, it exports the products to local industries and oil companies, including the SBDI.

These local companies are considered importers when they buy products from the SBFC, Padilla said. The transactions are denominated in US dollars and, as a rule, when the products leave the SBMA for domestic consumption, duties and taxes must be paid to the Bureau of Customs, he added.

The SBDI, on the other hand, sells the products it procures from the SBEC to local industries and oil companies and the transactions are treated as if these were local sales, Padilla said.

Padilla said that under RA 8479, all oil companies are required to submit reports to the Department of Energy specifying the sources of their oil, as well as the disposition and destination of their products.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 31, 2002
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 6:10-20
Gospel: Lk 13:31-35

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and gave him this warning, "Leave this place and go on your way, for Herod wants to kill you." Jesus said to them, "Go and give that fox my answer: 'I drive out demons and heal today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my course!' Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and for a little longer, for it would not be fitting for a prophet to be killed outside Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you slay the prophets and stone your apostles! How often have I tried to bring together your children, as a bird gathers her young under her wings, but you refused! From now on you will be left with your temple and you will no longer see me until the time when you will say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Commentary

The lamentation of Jesus over Jerusalem offers us a new perspective of his personality. Jesus feels disheartened. He, the messenger of the Good News, who has wanted to offer to his people peace and salvation, has been rejected. He has lived among his people doing only good: curing, offering hope, and giving life. But the price he is going to receive is death. That's why his complain comes from the depth of his heart. The same happens to us at times. The question is whether we have the same right to complain as Jesus has. Indeed, have we gone among our brothers and sisters doing good?

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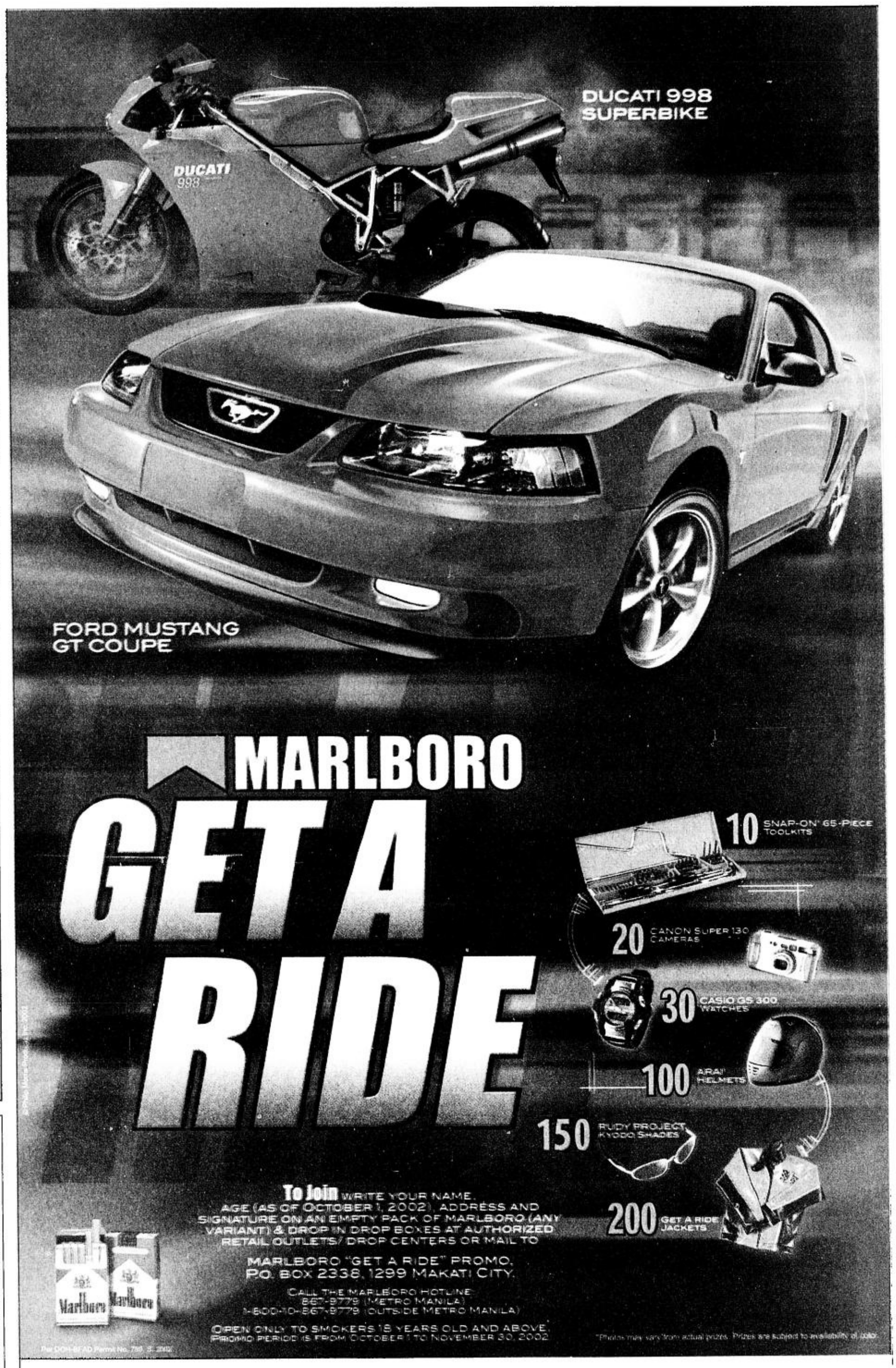
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST LIBERTY)—**Penalty for the crime of kidnapping**—The essence of the crime of kidnapping is the actual deprivation of the victim's liberty, coupled with indubitable proof of the accused's intent to effect the same. And if the person detained is a child, the question that needs to be addressed is whether there is evidence to show that in taking the child, there was deprivation of the child's liberty and that it was the intention of the accused to deprive the mother of the child's custody. Undoubtedly, the elements of kidnapping for ransom have been sufficiently established by the prosecution. Under Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act 7659, the imposition of the death penalty is mandatory if the victim is a minor. In this case, the minority of the victim was alleged in the Information and was never disputed. Even assuming that the minority was not proved, still under the law, the imposition of the death penalty is mandatory where, as here, the kidnapping was committed for the purpose of extorting ransom from the victim's parents or any other person. It bears emphasis that the minority of the victim and appellant's demand for ransom, both specifically alleged in the Information, were clearly established by the evidence for the prosecution free from any scintilla of doubt. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Per Curiam, People v. Suriaga, G. R. No. 123779, April 17, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA



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'Black ghost' walks deck of old Navy ship

From page A1

At least four former LT 57 crewmen had the inexplicable experience of awakening in their bunks to find the "unidentified African-American in Navy uniform" standing beside them. "They later recounted that when they got up the image of what seemed like a living person vanished immediately," said Mantilla, a native of Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

Commissioned into service in 1944 as the USS Harnet County, LT 57 was acquired by the Philippine government under Washington's Foreign Military Sales program in 1976 and joined the Navy in 1979. In 1999, however, it ran aground at Ayungin Shoal, one of the South China Sea islands being claimed by the Philippines. Today it serves as a military outpost—rusty but still serviceable.

DENNIS SABANGAN

STRANGE incidents like sounds and dragging footsteps usually after midnight have bedeviled the crew of the LT 501 shown here on its way to the Kalayaan group of islands.

No danger

Mantilla says Boy Negro had been "sighted by some crew members roaming the passageways in (the ship's) lower deck."

The 55-year-old Navy veteran said the sightings, which he says took place mostly at night, were somewhat disturbing but did not actually pose any actual danger.

"Many of us believe Boy Negro meant no harm, that he's a friendly ghost unlike some fictional ghost characters who return from the dead to torment living persons. When I was there he didn't make any menacing move," says Mantilla, who is set to retire next June after serving the Navy for over 32 years.

In 1996, Mantilla had his own ghostly encounter on the Sierra Madre, while it was docked at Sangley, the former US naval station in Cavite City.

Other ghosts

"I was in the bathroom which was just a few feet away from my room. I had left the door of my room open. From where I was standing I observed that the drapes on the doorway opened as if they were moved by some unseen hands. I watched in fright as the door suddenly slammed shut without any apparent human assistance. I checked but nobody was there. My nape went cold and my hair stood on end," recounts Mantilla in an interview aboard the BRP Laguna, another Navy LST where he is currently chief master at arms.

But it isn't only the Sierra Madre that has its stowaway ghosts.

The Laguna itself, also known as LT 501, has its phantoms.

ENS Bernadette Respicio, the lone woman serving in the aging workhorse of Naval Forces West, should know. The young officer is among those who have experienced close encounters with the unknown aboard LT 501.

Respicio, who hails from Echague, Isabela, said one "incident" happened only last Sept. 29, seven days into our voyage to Kalayaan, while standing the midnight watch on the ship's bridge.

"I was alone on the bridge, checking the radar and doing other stuff watch officers normally do. My partner (ENS Roderick Galicia) was checking out something at the bow ramp. Suddenly, I began to hear a rush of feet going up the stairs leading to the bridge. The dragging footsteps then circled the bridge wing, and as suddenly as the strange sounds arrived, they fell quiet" she recalls.

Respicio then "checked out the bridge wing . . . astern, right, front, left. To my astonishment there was nobody out there."

During early mess the following morning, she shared her experience with fellow officers. "It was only then that I learned some of them, too, had undergone strange experiences in the ship," says Respicio, who is still reluctant to believe in ghosts.

FN1 Roberto Anasco, the ship's "oil king"—the naval term for the one in charge of the LST's refuelling—was also once confronted by similar strange sounds of footsteps and loud rappings in the "DC locker."

One time, Anasco says, he head "loud footsteps crossingthe floor close to my bunk. But no one was there." After that incident, Anasco has always kept the light on at night.

Lt. Eric Gilberto Talavera, LT 501's executive officer, is still trying to find an explanation for what he called a "strange incident" last Sept. 24, our second day at sea aboard the BRP Laguna.

Talavera was then changing his clothes in the sea cabin, which is located between the bridge and the pilot house. "After removing the insignias and nameplate from my soiled uniform, I placed them on top of a small table. I was about to transfer them to my clean uniform when I noticed that my nameplate had disappeared. I was on my knees looking for it everywhere, on the floor and practically every inch of that small room. Still, I didn't find it."

When the ship arrived in Pag-asa island shortly afterwards, Talavera was startled to find the missing nameplate in the middle of the cabin floor.

Unusual presence

SN1 Alido Flores, who has been with the Navy for six years, is curious about the manifestations at the LST's starboard compartment.

Says Flores: "Something has been making its presence felt there, usually after midnight, by tapping my back or shoulder. It happened five times already. On all five occasions I made it a point to check. But there's no other person in the room, the passageway and the nearby bathroom except myself."

SN2 Naser Ladjahasan had a similar eerie experience when the Laguna once docked at the Naval Forces South pier in Zamboanga City.

"It was close to midnight and I was sound asleep. Then I felt somebody waking me up, murmuring: "Wake up! You're on midnight duty!" My heart fluttered when I opened my eyes. From where I was lying, I saw the spectral figure of a man in white alpha uniform. I didn't see his face. The image glided away from me. Then it vanished," Ladjahasan recalled.

Jaime Licauco, the country's top parapsychologist and an INQUIRER columnist, says the "supposedly strange things which took place in those Navy ships are not strange at all."

"For me, they are normal, not paranormal. From the point of orthodox science, paranormal is something that cannot be explained. But many of them can be explained. Those events are simply beyond the paradigm of science which has defined what reality should be, that it should be seen or should have certain physical characteristics. People are so focused on the physical plane that they fail to look into other realities."

The Laguna's captain, Lt. Nestor Yapit, did not say whether he believed in ship hauntings or not. But he seemed to have become tolerant of "reports about such things."

"It's okay," Yapit quips. "As long as (the so-called ghosts) are friendly."

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby notified of the Panel Interview of applicants for four (4) positions of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** at the old Supreme Court Session Hall, Third Floor, Old Supreme Court Building, Taft Avenue, Manila. The following is the schedule of interview:

11 NOVEMBER 2002 (MONDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Abad Santos, Salvador S.
2. Abarintos, Pampio A.
3. Alegre, Zosimo G.
4. Andrade, Amalia Resterio
5. Annang, Raymundo Z.

2:00 P.M.
1. Abdulwahid, Hakim S.
2. Adanzo, Felix P.
3. Arizala, Gregorio Z.
4. Bagalacsa, Lore V.
5. Ballutay, Johnson L.

12 NOVEMBER 2002 (TUESDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Aspi, Feliciano A.
2. Baldos, Teresita Diaz
3. Barinaga, Sylvia Lucson
4. Basilla, Henry B.
5. Cabado, Rodolfo V.

2:00 P.M.
1. Bay, Teodoro A.
2. Bersamin, Lucas P.
3. Cabredo, Arnulfo B.
4. Canonizado, Alexis C.
5. Cuerdo;Caridad Grecia

13 NOVEMBER 2002 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Carandang, Rosmari de Claro
2. Chiongson, Roberto S.
3. Cueva, Eulogia Makabenta
4. Cuñada, Alvin B.
5. Deloria, Merlin D.

2:00 P.M.
1. Chiu, Eleuterio E.
2. Co, Alicia Mariño
3. Diamante, Franchito N.
4. Erum, Bernardita Gabitan
5. Escobido, Jose L.

14 NOVEMBER 2002 (THURSDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Cortes, Ma. Aurora Pojun
2. Decano, Alicia Gonzalez
3. Eugenio, Antonio M. Jr.
4. Flores, Teresita Dy-Liacco
5. Francisco, Raymundo T.

2:00 P.M.
1. Domondon, Abelardo T.
2. Estoesta, Cecilio O.
3. Lanzanas, Enrico A.
4. Laurea, Emmanuel D.
5. Lontok, Arcangelita Romilla

18 NOVEMBER 2002 (MONDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Exevea, Apolinario G.
2. Fernandez, Rumoldo R.
3. Magdoza, Pablo R.
4. Malik, Jacob T.
5. Marquez, Placido C.

2:00 P.M.
1. Hernandez, Jose R.
2. Herrera, Oscar C. Jr.
3. Panganiban, Rustico V.
4. Pimentel, Oscar B.
5. Pinto, Ofelia Tuazon

19 NOVEMBER 2002 (TUESDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Kintanar, Oliveros E.
2. Lagman, Aurora Santiago
3. Pozas, Antonio S.
4. Reyes, Jose C. Jr.
5. Reyes, Leonardo P.

2:00 P.M.
1. Lantion, Jane Aurora Catabian
2. Laqui, Hilario L.
3. Riel, Teodoro T.
4. Rosales, Voltaire Y.
5. Salvador, Fe Palmiano

20 NOVEMBER 2002 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Lopez, Romulo A.
2. Macapagal, Demetrio B. Sr.
3. Sarmiento, Jorge V.
4. Sorongon, Edwin D.
5. Tac-an, Paterno V.

2:00 P.M.
1. Madarang, Ramiro R.
2. Martinez, Mariano M.
3. Tayag, Arturo G.
4. Tiamson, Paterno G.
5. Villamor, Antonio L.

21 NOVEMBER 2002 (THURSDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Pison, Rosalina Luna
2. Querubin, Perla Bascos
3. Reyes, Amor Aquino
4. Rojas, Pablito M.
5. Villaruz, Delano F.

2:00 P.M.
1. Roxas, Vicente Q.
2. Salazar, Jaime N. Jr.
3. Salazar, Valerio Monte R.
4. Solis, Cesar M.
5. Villon, Sesinando E.

22 NOVEMBER 2002 (FRIDAY)

10:00 A.M.
1. Tijam, Noel G.
2. Veloso, Vicente E.
3. Vicente, Rosalinda Asuncion
4. Vidal, Myrna Dimaranan

2:00 P.M.
1. Villasor, Edwin A.
2. Yap, Vicente L.
3. Zenarosa, Monina Arevalo

As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public.

29 October 2002.

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

DOH worries about the living, sends medical teams

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT of Health is sending several medical teams to cemeteries in Metro Manila and to the North and South Expressways to respond to emergency cases during the observance of All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

Each team is composed of two doctors and two medical aides.

In a statement, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said each medical team would be provided with an ambulance.

Today the medical team from the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine will be stationed at the Mayapa Exit at the South Expressway, while the team from the Philippine Orthopedic Center will be posted at the northbound Bocaue Exit of the North Diversion Road.

A medical team from the Dr. Jose Fabella Medical Center will be deployed at the La Loma cemetery on Nov. 1, while a team from the National Children's Hospital and the National Center for Mental Health will be posted at the North cemetery and South cemetery, respectively.

People not in mood . . .

From page A1

information office. The others are malls and bus terminals.

The commemoration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, which includes prayer vigils, often turns into occasions for revelry, where families hold picnics beside their dead relatives' tombs, sing songs or play cards.

"If terrorists want to hurt people, cemeteries could be their best targets at this time," national police operations chief Virtus Gil said.

Police and soldiers, including Marines, will also be deployed in tourist resorts, churches, shopping malls, and at all land, sea and air terminals around the country.

In a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Armed Forces chief of staff, ordered the K-9 units, the Explosives and Ordnance Division of the Philippine Army, the Air Force's Special Operations Wing, and the Anti-Crime Task Force on 24-hour alert. The Marines were placed on alert as a "standby force."

Also on alert was the military's Task Force Libra, an anti-coup force which defended Malacañang during last year's May Day attack by thousands of slum-dwellers supporting ousted President Joseph Estrada.

60 Metro cemeteries

Leaving no room for any terrorist attack, the Armed Forces would deploy Marines in more than 60 cemeteries in Metro Manila on All Saints' and All Souls' Days to conduct foot patrols in tandem with policemen, police officials said.

"Threats could come in many forms that's why we're putting up this kind of security umbrella so that our people can go to the cemeteries without fear for their safety," said Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, police director for operations.

Querol, however, declined to specify the number of Marines who would be fielded to augment the 3,000-strong police force from the National Capital Region Police Office, which had been earlier tasked with securing the cemeteries.

"We don't give specific numbers, but they will be working in tandem with the policemen. Definitely, there would be more policemen than the Marines," he said at a press briefing in Camp Crame.

There are 66 cemeteries and memorial parks in 13 cities and three municipalities in Metro Manila. "We're just going there to secure the cemeteries; no cause for special attention," Querol said.

Querol met with his counterparts from the military, including Lieutenant Colonels Francisco Alvarado of the Marines and Rey Ardo of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to map out security measures for Friday and Saturday.

Querol said it would be up to the regional and provincial directors to request military assistance if they see the need. "They can work it out with their counterparts. This kind of security preparation is mirrored in all the regions," he said.

K-9 patrol

Police officials had earlier announced that eight teams of K-9 sniffing dogs would be deployed in the metropolis to respond to any bomb threats today and tomorrow. The Armed Forces has provided 20 sniffing dogs in addition to the police's 20.

The security arrangements in cemeteries may just be what the CBCP wants as these may discourage noisy parties.

"The catechism of the Church teaches respect for the dead. The dead are bodies of human beings and the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit," said CBCP executive secretary Msgr. Hernando Coronel.

Coronel explained that the religious observance in the next few days would fall under the "communion of the saints."

The Church asserts that its faithful include all the living and the dead. "The blessed in heaven are also in the communion of the saints," he said.

That is why the Church does not look kindly on activities that amount to disrespect for the dead, according to Coronel.

"When we go to cemeteries, we urge people to pray. But it is also a time to meet our relatives, our friends and our acquaintances," he said.

Wholesome fun

Fun can be had as long as it is considered "wholesome." Music can also be played as long as it is not loud as to disturb and annoy those praying. "The family or the love ones should pray for their departed ones. The rest can exchange stories," Coronel said.

He is also encouraging people to pray for the dead whose graves have been forgotten or are no longer visited by their relatives.

In the communion of the saints, both the living and the dead are praying for each other's welfare and well-being, according to Coronel. "We are one Church. We are helping one another. We pray for them, the poor souls are dependent on us," he said. This can be done by saying prayers, offering of Masses and doing penance.

The CBCP official also asked people to be considerate of people who practice other faiths and have a different way of honoring their dead. *With a report from Reuters*

Sexy star stops traffic . . .

From page A1

Tuesday afternoon at the Edsa-Shaw flyover in Mandaluyong City, when she posed as a scantily clad hitchhiker for FHM Philippines, a popular men's magazine.

Instead of a mere traffic citation, however, Zubiri got something worse—a lawsuit.

City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday ordered the filing of grave scandal charges against Zubiri for posing provocatively, which he said aggravated an already terrible traffic jam.

Abalos said he directed Odette Galino, Mandaluyong City public information officer, to file the charges against Zubiri. He admitted that he had issued a permit for the photo session on the flyover's eastbound lane (in the direction of Manila) but gave specific instructions that she could not pose in skimpy clothes.

"I allowed them to shoot inasmuch as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority already gave them permission to shoot but I gave instructions that she will pose only in short or long pants," Abalos said.

"She and the magazine's management violated my instructions when she wore a two-piece bikini which caused passing drivers to rubber-neck, thereby aggravating traffic congestion in the area," he added.

Enrique Ramos, the magazine's editor in chief, said the "final verbal agreement" reached with the mayor's office was for Zubiri to wear a "bikini top and shorts."

Ramos said he issued a public apology over radio stations dzBB and dzMM and also visited the mayor's office to apologize to Abalos personally.

"I feel bad for Diana but respect the mayor's decision," Ramos said. He also said he understood Zubiri would be ably defended by lawyers to be fielded by Seiko Films, her studio.

But Abalos thumbed down the public apology for the thumb-a-ride photo shoot, saying it was not enough. He said that for "every action there is a corresponding reaction." People should be responsible for their actions and should not violate the trust entrusted to them, he added.

TRAFFIC-STOPPING Diana Zubiri did not impress Mandaluyong Mayor Ben-Hur Abalos who's charging her with grave scandal.

BEATING THE FREEZE ORDER

Role of witness in sale of Dichaves asset probed

By Volt Contreras

SANDIGANBAYAN sheriffs have asked the Ombudsman to investigate the role of a prosecution witness in the Joseph Estrada plunder trial in the sale of a condominium by a fugitive defendant in the same trial that beat the court's freeze order on some questioned assets.

In a letter to Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo Tuesday, the chief sheriff asked how prosecution witness Willie Ng Ocier, Belle Corp. vice president, ended up signing his name to a transaction that allowed businessman Jaime Dichaves, who fled the country rather than face the music with Estrada, to sell his P12-million Tagaytay City condo despite his absence from the Philippines.

They also questioned the timing of the sale—Aug. 9, 2002—a few days before the Sandiganbayan ordered a freeze on assets linked to Estrada, Dichaves and others charged in the plunder complaint.

Ocier and Dichaves are cousins. But Ocier testified last year against Estrada in the trial's early stages, narrating how the then President had allegedly received a P189.7-million commission from the sale of Belle Corp. shares to state pension agencies SSS and GSIS.

Dichaves fled the country when Estrada was ousted in a popular mass action in January 2001. He was included in the plunder complaint for having allegedly arranged the commission, he being a member of the Belle board.

Documents obtained by chief sheriff Edgardo Urieta showed that Dichaves' wife Abby sold the couple's Belle View condo (no. 1103) in Tagaytay City for P12.3 million to spouses Jonny and Helen Sy on Aug. 9.

Seventeen days later, the Sandiganbayan special division issued a freeze order on bank accounts believed to hold Estrada's alleged ill-gotten wealth, including the "Jose Velarde" account, and on the assets of co-accused Dichaves, Yolanda Ricaforte and Charlie "Atong" Ang, both of whom also fled the country.

Urieta told Marcelo he noted the following discrepancies in the Deed of Absolute Sale between Abby Dichaves and the Sys:

• The document contained in its left margin the purported signature of Jaime Dichaves, signifying his "marital conformity" to what his wife did.

• It also contained the supposed signature of Ocier as a representative of Belle Corp., since Belle View Condominium is one of the firm's development ventures.

• The document, which Urieta obtained from the Tagaytay City register of deeds, did not indicate if the sale was consummated before a notary public.

Urieta asked Marcelo to investigate such "perceived irregularities" which, if proven, could nullify the sale and include the condominium under the freeze order.

He also pointed out that Ocier, as a prosecution witness, "knew that Jaime Dichaves was one of the accused in this case and is presently on (the) wanted list."

As to Dichaves' signature on the sale document, Urieta said he wants to determine its authenticity.

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Erap left VCD player running

By TJ Burgonio

HE forgot to turn it off.

Ex-President Joseph Estrada, also a former actor, must have watched one movie after another on his video compact disc player, then left the machine running, resulting in a small fire in his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on Tuesday night.

Arson investigators initially suspected a power overload but ruled this out upon learning that the suite's sleeping and receiving areas had separate electrical connections, and that the air-conditioning unit in Estrada's bedroom, where the fire started, was not running during the incident.

Police officials concluded that the fire was caused by the overheated VCD.

"Apparently, it had been playing for some time," said Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, director for Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO). "It was probably old, too," he added.

PSPO provides the perimeter, area, and close-in security for the 65-year-old Estrada and his son Jinggoy, former San Juan Mayor. The two are detained at the VMMC while undergoing trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

The fire broke out at 7:20 p.m. while the older Estrada was being interviewed in the receiving area by a television crew.

During the interview, Jinggoy noticed thick smoke coming out of the room. The people in the suite—including visiting family members—were led outside, while aides and hospital staff doused the fire.

Aside from the VCD player, police said, the fire destroyed a rack full of VCDs, and slightly damaged the television set. Also slightly burned was a portion of the bathroom door.

With Dona Pazzibugan and Reuters

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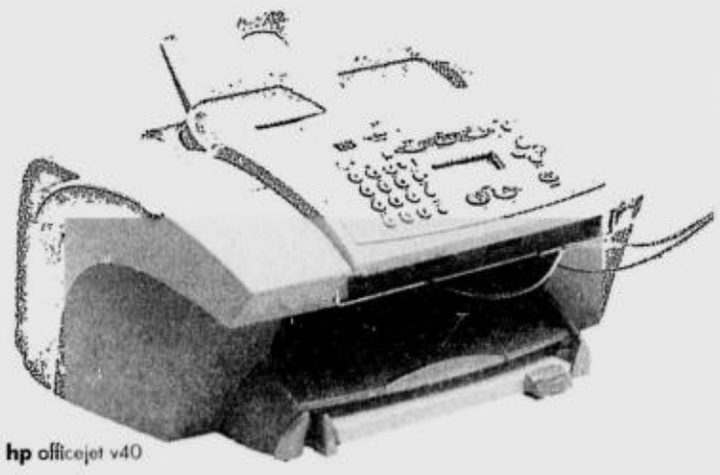
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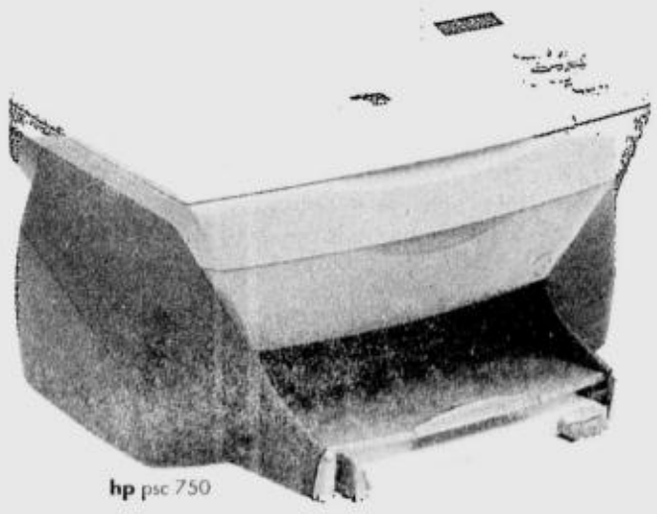
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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Voices in wilderness

EDITORIAL

NOTHING could have been more frustrating to President George W. Bush than leaving the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Los Cabos, Mexico, last weekend without Apec's backing of the US-sponsored tough resolution in the United Nations to disarm Iraq.

The Apec's final communiqué not only pointedly failed to have any reference to Iraq. The unkindest cut was that President Vicente Fox of Mexico spurned Bush's lobby and aligned with France and Russia in a French alternative two-stage resolution calling for a return of UN weapons inspectors to Iraq and another resolution by the Security Council authorizing a US-led war on Iraq if the inspection fails.

While Bush's presence at Los Cabos, as well as that of other Apec heads of state, was obligatory, he made a special effort to campaign for support for the US resolution to give it a veneer of broader international legitimacy. Mexico is a non-founding member of the Security Council, and its shift to the French-Russian axis could only be a blow to the US campaign. In the 15-member Council, where debate on the resolution has entered a critical stage, nine votes are required to pass the resolution provided there is no veto from any of the five permanent members—the United States, France, Russia, Britain and China.

With the sidelining of Iraq, the United States had a reading of how much opposition its resolution is encountering, and how little diplomatic support it is receiving in the Asia-Pacific region, which is historically regarded as the "American lake." The US setback in Apec sailed into an earlier threat by Bush that the United States would "lead a coalition to disarm Iraq" unilaterally if the Security Council did not pass its resolution.

Apec, however, did not leave Bush, who flew out of the summit, completely empty-handed. The communiqué strongly condemned the wave of terrorist bombings in Bali, Indonesia and the Philippines, and the terrorist hostage-taking in Moscow. The meeting opened against the backdrop of these developments, ensuring that it could not ignore the specter of increasing terrorist attacks in many parts of the globe.

Recognizing this threat but not linking it to the Iraq issue, the Apec communiqué backed more stringent security measures in customs and in travel to counter penetration of terrorists across national territories. Although Apec was designed to be a forum for trade cooperation and expansion in the region, which until the 1997 Asian financial crisis, had been hailed as the seat of the "Pacific century" of economic growth, it has been dominated by security issues since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

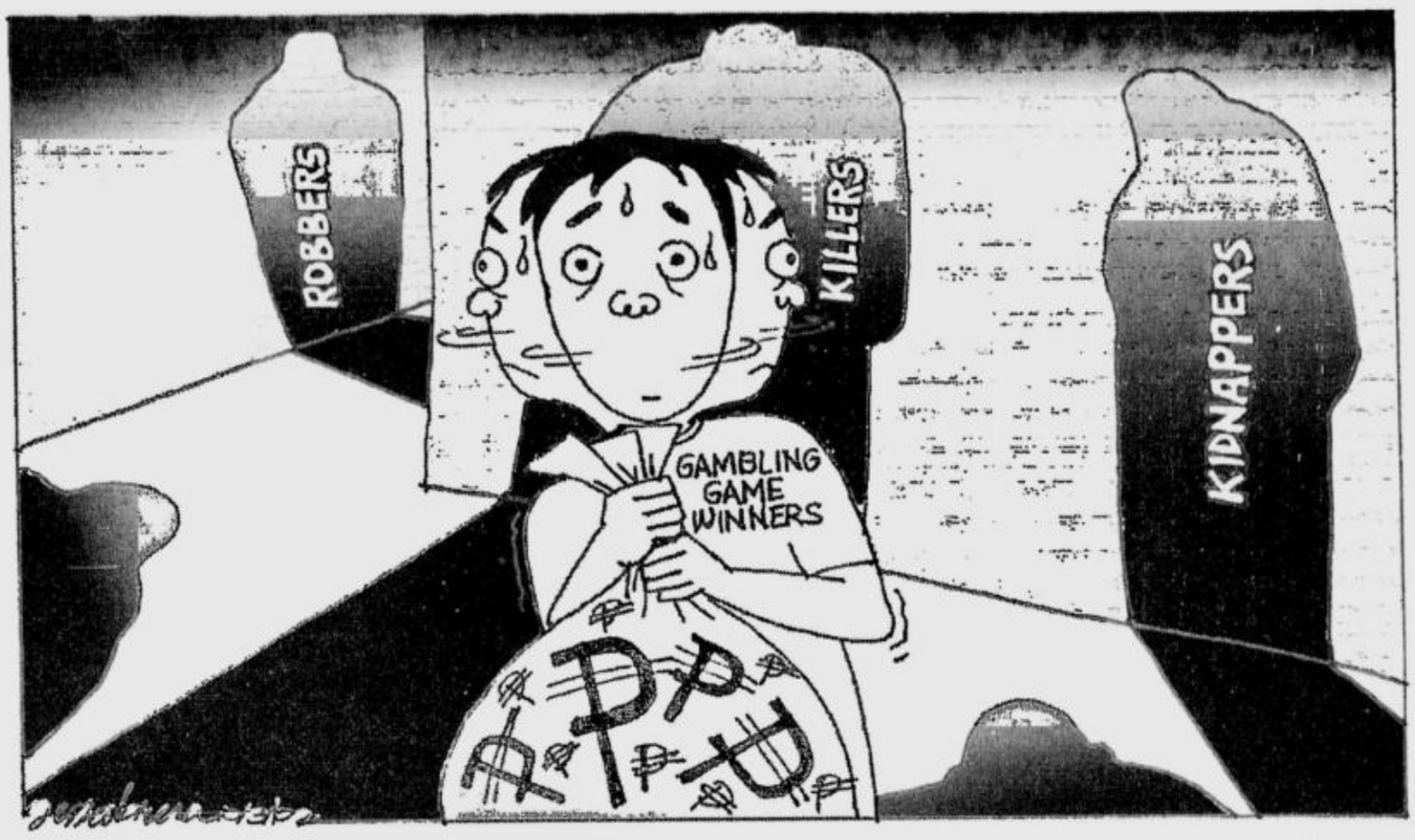
Indeed, the Mexico summit strapped Apec in the dilemma of its theme to address the rising tide of global terrorism without impeding the free movement of goods and people deemed vital to economic development. A number of Apec leaders, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, voiced the concern that the terrorism issue had all but shoved the trade issues to the background.

In an effort to put back trade issues to the center stage, President Macapagal said that fair trade should receive equal emphasis with terrorist concerns. "If we neglect the economic imperative at this time and are so concerned with terrorism," she said, "we will be feeding terrorism by promoting hunger and ignorance."

Well said, except that this message seems to have fallen on hard rock as far as the US concern over Iraq is concerned and there was no way for Apec to focus on trade issues.

She also slammed protectionism, citing protectionist measures and subsidies in the advanced Western economies, including the United States. Until the Iraq conflict is decided, the United States is in no mood to talk about trade issues, consideration of which would only expose its own protectionism and also highlight its unilateralism in trade issues before the World Trade Organization.

Ms Macapagal and other Apec leaders who sought to underline trade issues at Los Cabos were voices in the wilderness. They had no chance to supplant the agenda of the world's only superpower obsessed with war on Iraq.



Auction houses have record of price manipulation

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System claims that not a centavo of its members' money was used for the P50 million paid for Juan Luna's painting "Parisian Life" at Christie's auction in Hong Kong. It came from the P1 billion profit of GSIS, said GSIS president Winston Garcia.

So that P1-billion profit does not belong to the members, and the GSIS can spend it as they wish, right? Wrong.

That P1-billion profit still belongs to the members. That was earned by the contributions of the members. When your bank deposits earn interest, that interest belongs to you. When you invest in a business, the profits belong to you. The money earned by the members' contributions belong to them. It does not belong to the GSIS president or its board of directors, and they cannot spend it as if it is theirs. The whole GSIS cannot earn a single centavo without the members' contributions. So don't give us that bull that GSIS profits don't belong to the members.

If the GSIS has P1 billion in net profits, why are members not getting the benefits due to them? Why is it still charging 12 percent interest on housing loans while Pag-IBIG charges only 6 percent on small loans? Shouldn't profits from members' contributions be plowed back to them?

True, investing in art is a good hedge against inflation. But as I said in yesterday's column, a painting, no matter how valuable, will earn money only if it is sold at a profit. While it is not sold, it is a non-performing asset. If the GSIS is able to sell it to a Filipino collector, museum or the National Museum at P55 or P60 million or more then it's a good investment. If it just hangs in the GSIS Museum, then it does not earn any profit from the money invested in it.

The GSIS is different from private collectors. The latter use their own money. The GSIS uses public money.

I am not saying that the GSIS should not have bought the Luna painting. If it was going to fall into foreign hands, Filipinos should not scrimp to keep the painting here. What I'm saying is that we probably had been had by Christie's, which has a previous record of price-fixing and manipulation. The rival bidder for "Parisian Life" is unknown (a newspaper report said there were two other Filipino bidders), bidding by telephone which drove the price up from P11 million to P46 million. How sure are we that there was really such a bidder?

As businessman Sixto Roxas and Vice President Teofisto Guingona said, we could have haggled for a lower price if we had offered to the owner here—who surely has some patriotism left in him—to buy it at the announced floor price of P14 million. That's many millions less than P50.6 million.

* * *

Let's hear the opinion of Filipino painters on the Luna controversy. The artist Malang has three questions and observations:

1. Why is Luna the painter so popular nowadays?

Poor Luna, every smart operator is making more money from his paintings than he ever did all his life! And the number of doubtful transactions continue—from Far East Bank's donation of Lunas to the National Museum in exchange for a hefty tax deduction to Dr. Teyet Pascual's "Luna Sketches" and now to Winston Garcia's P50.6 million purchase of "Parisian Life."

How did the price rise in just minutes from the P14 million estimate the auctioneer themselves started with?

2. Who were the other bidders?

Let's face it; this particular Luna painting's importance is primarily historical, not artistic. For that reason, only a Filipino would pay top price for it, to keep it in the country.

I understand Garcia was pitted against someone bidding by telephone. Are we sure there was another genuine Filipino buyer—seeing how badly the economy is doing?

In any case, neither Christie's nor its rival Sotheby's has been above price fixing and manipulating elite collectors. In late 2000, Sotheby's Diana Brooks, former president and chief executive of Sotheby's International, admitted to have conspired with a Christie's official before an American court. Some time later, both Alfred Taubman, chair of Sotheby's Holdings, and Anthony J. Tennant, chair of Christie's International, were themselves found guilty of violating the Sherman Anti-trust Act.

3. Why spend millions on one painting when contemporary Filipino art is dying?

Can you imagine what a tremendous collection of national art the GSIS would have amassed if it had spent half that amount on contemporary Philippine paintings, as the Central Bank did under Jaime Laya?

The prestigious Luz Gallery—whose owner has done more Philippine art than Winston Garcia could ever do, even if he has several more lifetimes as an "art patron"—is closing down after more than 40 years of pioneer work promoting Philippine art.

I would say the GSIS management owes government employees an explanation more substantial than the dismissive note that not a single centavo of theirs went to the Luna purchase. Is Garcia saying that the profits from GSIS ventures go to other pockets than to the GSIS fund that employees are supposed to own? Is he saying that there is something even more wrong about the GSIS management than its foolish venture into art buying, a business it obviously knows little about?

Plain iniquity

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S no way to justify the Government Service Insurance System's purchase of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" for an eye-popping P50 million.

The most basic argument against it is the one raised by Courage, the government workers' union. "It is appalling for us GSIS members to learn that this is how GSIS officials spend the money which comes from our blood, sweat and tears." Coming as it does on the heels of the GSIS' generous P1-billion donation to the Public Estates Authority to build a road named after the President's father—a very short road with a very tall price, like most everything (and everyone) that's come after Edsa II—it's a double whammy to GSIS contributors. Like public school teachers who do very long work for very short pay.

While at this, I can't understand how Joker Arroyo, who found the latter transaction anomalous at first sight, would see nothing wrong with it at second sight. Second sight is just another word for being stricken with blindness. The fact that its cost is roughly similar to other road projects does not make this one up and up, it only makes the others just as crooked. The correct conclusion is not to let this one pass, it is to investigate the others as well. And mix their perpetrators in cement. The most crooked street in the world today is not to be found in San Francisco, it is to be found near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

All this while the GSIS has stopped payment of claims by government employees for lack of funds. You cannot see the iniquity of this—and Winston Garcia apparently cannot—you should be handed over to the Abu Sayyaf to help you appreciate the meaning of the word.

The notion that we are repatriating a priceless treasure, an invaluable piece of national patrimony, doesn't hold water. I agree: nations, like individuals, cannot live by bread alone. I will be first to argue—and have done so repeatedly—that we may not sacrifice art or things spiritual for economic growth or material goods. Or that we may not treat culture as a miscellaneous item in the allocation of scant resources, an afterthought that we just scrounge money for after the budget has been made. The nurturing of the nation's soul is just as vital—I personally think it is more so—as the care of the nation's body. It cannot come as a lesser priority.

But that principle doesn't apply here. At the very least, the GSIS is not tasked to look after the nation's soul, it is tasked to look after the government workers' benefits. If it has done the second with plenty to spare, well and fine. If, as the government union's complaint abundantly shows, it cannot even start doing that for lack of funds, then truly its head should be shot for even contemplating indulging in a monumental act of profligacy. The government does not lack for agencies to undertake cultural projects of transactions. There is the CCP, there is the National Council for Culture and the Arts, there is the National Museum. These are the only institutions that may have a say in this. Not the GSIS.

More than this, if the government wants this country not to be deprived of its priceless treasures, it should start by stopping the looting of invaluable relics and artifacts, quite apart from paintings, right in our midst, right before our eyes, from various government offices. It's enough to make you suspect Luna's "Parisian Life" was bought by the government just so it would end up in some local private collector's den, or worse some local pirate's lair.

And still more than this, if the government wants this country not to be deprived of its priceless treasures, it should start not by reacquiring lost or disappeared treasure but by getting the public to appreciate the ones that are here. Or never mind appreciate, just see them. There are several Luna paintings in the National Museum, all of which show the spectacular genius of the painter to whom we owe this furor to. Along with paintings by awesomely gifted artists like Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos "Botong" Francisco and Hernando Ocampo. Along with remnants of the Galleon Trade and pre-Hispanic commerce between the islands and various parts of Asia.

Nobody goes to see these things, they are not priceless artifacts, they are just bric-a-brac gathering dust in the bodega, however well lit and air-conditioned the rooms they are exhibited in are. Acquisition by itself means nothing. It is not culture, it is greed—the kind shown by misers and obsessive collectors who thrill to the idea of owning, and not necessarily appreciating, an expensive piece of art. First, we learn to value what we have, then we go around scrounging for what we have not got. Or what we've "lost." We can never really lose what we never really have, in a sense that goes beyond mere possession.

If the government truly wants to recover priceless treasure, it should start by recovering the Bells of Balangiga, whose historical significance is incalculable: at the very least they should remind this forgetful people that the Americans seized these islands from pure imperialist greed a century ago, and with much savagery. The effort should not cost the country a single centavo. GMA has pretty much sold our birthright for a pot of porridge, she might as well get a bell or two thrown into the bargain. Or put more simply, she ought to get a better deal for putting this country in harm's way than a lot of IOUs. You don't have to bid for those bells in an auction, you have only to demand them as part of Philippine property.

Which brings us to one last point: The GSIS is so eager to recover a piece of the national patrimony when GMA is so willing to give away the whole of it to become America's right hand in Asia? Where is the sense in that?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Stampeded

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Government Service Insurance System, doubtless meant well in trying to keep the 110-year-old masterpiece by Juan Luna in the country instead of letting it fall into the hands of a foreign art institution or private collector. But the problem is that the government allowed itself to be stampeded into buying it for P50 million, instead of forming a quick strategy to keep it in Filipino hands, perhaps at a much lower cost.

Of course, the government could argue that strategizing is just Monday morning quarterbacking: when one is faced with the need to take a quick decisive action, there is precious little time to ponder. But the ability to do quick thinking is what government officials are paid to do.

* * *

Let's assume that the government, like the rest of the nation, only heard of the Nakpil heir's deal with Christie's when Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's wife, Kim, who represents the rival Sotheby's here, blew the whistle on the Luna sale in Hong Kong. At that point, if the government wanted to save the Luna, the agencies involved with culture and the arts should have strategized quickly to thwart that auction. Perhaps they could have negotiated with the Nakpil heirs for a "patriotic" purchase by the National Museum.

* * *

The golden opportunity to buy time for strategizing came when Christie's officials, already alarmed by the ruckus the sale had caused here, sent it back to Manila to secure the needed export permit. At that point, the government could have told Christie's that it needed to study the matter, to make sure no Philippine laws were being violated. Christie's would have lived with that reality, since it also deals with other governments whose laws are far stricter.

* * *

The perfect excuse for delaying its auction came up when the Luna painting arrived on a weekend, when all the government agencies were closed. Instead, what happened was amazing: National Museum officials went to the airport, and after checking out the painting, issued the export papers to the Christie's representatives right then and there. Christie's was naturally relieved that there was no problem and was profuse with thanks to the government for its quick action.

Once the painting was in Hong Kong and the bidding started, there was no stopping it. Pressured to save the Luna for the Filipino people, the GSIS, perhaps the only local entity liquid enough to do so at the moment, had to bid for it. GSIS president Winston Garcia meant well, and he's entitled to lament that his was a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" predicament. But the government clearly failed to act with clarity and vision—and paid dearly for it.

Now the P50-million transaction is being denounced by GSIS members, some 1.4 million small government employees who contribute a portion of their monthly earnings. They see the generosity of the GSIS in various transactions but see little of such generosity when it involves their benefits.

* * *

There was a bit of a foul-up in the news item here last Tuesday about Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso of the Land Transportation Office. I wrote that the LTO had received a grant of P77 million from the Development Bank of the Philippines to purchase equipment to be used in enforcing the Clean Air Act. Before the DBP is swamped with requests for similar "grants," let me correct that item. It was the Asian Development Bank that gave the money, and according to Lastimoso, the winning bidder for the equipment has already delivered 15 opacity meters and the gas analyzers are on their way here.

* * *

Earlier I wrote about a public service by the Jesuit Communications Ministry, a group of Jesuit priests and brothers and lay staff that evangelizes using modern-day methods and communication instruments. My niece Marites Daza-Ingles, who is deeply involved in the project, pointed out that JC uses music (CDs and cassettes), concerts, MTVs and radio shows to reach people with God's message. Some months back, JC Ministry started featuring a Sunday Mass on TV, titled "Sundays for Skeptics."

Recently JC has come up with another nontraditional and creative project entitled SEEK 29766. It aims to make people see the face of Christ and hear His words through—how else?— the cell phone, that steady partner of almost everyone in our country, including drivers, soldiers, domestics and laborers. This project features personal requests phoned into SEEK 29766 for prayers for families and friends, which are then included in the prayers of the Jesuit priests and brothers for that day and during the Sunday Mass.

* * *

For All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, JC has come up with another special public service. The Jesuit priests and brothers will include in their Masses and prayers the souls of the dear departed of those who call SEEK 929766 by cell phone. Marites says only two steps are needed: (1) Under "write message" type "Pray" and then list down the names of your departed loved ones. (2) Send to 929766 (this is the number for both Smart and Globe cell-phone users).

Marites says SEEK 29766 is a continuing project and "given the proper information dissemination, it will open the doors of the Church to many people, especially those without the financial resources (a text message costs only P2.50) or time or the courage or simply the access." Just type SEEK and send to 29766.

Death wishes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I'M going to make my family clip this, just in case I don't find the time to write a living will before, as they say of dead journalists, I "write 30." (Come to think of it, I've never used "30" to end an article before. Maybe the term should be amended to "write ###.")

This is how I want my mortal remains to be disposed of. First, I want any remaining useful organs harvested for donation or research. When I broached the idea to the hubby and kids that we each carry "organ donor" cards on us, my daughter burst into tears and said she didn't want to be carrying the cards because "I might be killed so another person could have my kidneys."

I didn't have the heart to ask her what earthly use the kidneys would be to her when she was dead, so I just dropped the idea. Still, if my kidneys survive my diabetes, I'm willing them to whoever can eke out some use for them.

I'd much prefer immediate cremation but I understand other people's need for closure. I once went to a wake where the deceased had been cremated and it was extremely difficult trying to imagine what she had looked like in life when all I had to go on was a small bronze urn. So, okay, I'll settle for a closed casket. I don't want people gazing at my heavily made-up face and sighing: "She looks like she's just sleeping." I'll be dead, for chrissakes! Flattery won't get you anywhere with me anymore!

I'd also prefer to be laid to rest in a plain wooden casket, like all popes are. I deserve no less, don't you think? I think it's absolutely ridiculous for the family to be spending P100,000 on those gilded monstrosities with quilted linings that will only attract grave robbers when your body deteriorates just as quickly and irrevocably regardless of the container. And so what if people think my family is cheap? They can always say I was eccentric.

* * *

AT ANOTHER wake, for a friend's mother, the casket was closed but sitting on top of it were pictures of the woman while in the pink of health, the biggest one a solo shot of her amid the blooms of her garden. And all around the casket were potted plants from that same garden, a testament to her love for the earth and all of creation.

That's what I want for my wake. A closed plain wooden casket on top of which are displayed pictures of me, preferably when I was in my teens and 20s when I still had a waist. And I wouldn't mind flowers. Blue milflores, if possible. Or white roses.

For my funeral Mass, I'd like a choir to sing "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent" while they escort my remains to the crematorium. My family will be free to dispose of or keep my ashes as they wish, as long as they don't keep the urn on top of the TV set. I've heard some families divide the ashes among themselves, putting some in small glass tubes that they wear like pendants around their necks. Charming, but too morbid for my taste.

And that's it. That's how I'd like this body to go. I'd love it, too, if all my loved ones were around me and could tell me how much they loved me, and what a lovely person I am while I can still hear them and remember their words. I don't know. Maybe I'll still be able to hear the tributes when I'm a spirit, but I prefer not to take any chances.

* * *

I KNOW some folks will be recoiling at this column, and the superstitious will say I'm tempting fate by contemplating my own death. But I think this is the right time to be putting such thoughts down on paper (or computer screen)—while you're still young and relatively healthy and the prospect still seems remote, and while you have the power to make sure your wishes are followed. After you shuffle off this mortal coil, it's just too late to plan your wake, funeral and burial. Besides, haunting your survivors is such a pain when you should have bigger things in mind, like eternal salvation.

About the worst thing that could happen is that you should end up doing in death what you so scrupulously avoided in life. According to the latest issue of Time, death is especially problematic for greenies, because "leading an environmentally aware life is one thing, but disposal afterward is quite another."

Here are some problems linked to dying and getting buried the usual way: "cemeteries take up land; traditional burials may use caskets that rust from the inside out; and spillage from toxic embalming chemicals...can be flushed into the general sewerage system." As "Six Feet Under" reveals, the business of death is dirtier than it seems.

* * *

ACCORDING to Time, there are ways to "rest in green peace." In Britain, some 150 burial grounds offer "plain wooden coffins (see?), cardboard boxes or 'a lovely woolen shroud' in which to bury loved ones in a nature reserve." In the United States, endangered wildflowers will be planted on the graves of the deceased buried in a 33-acre "memorial ecosystem."

Even as cremation is seen as much more "environmentally friendly" than a traditional burial, there's also a way to make it even more enriching for the ecosystem. You can have your ashes mixed with "environmentally safe concrete" that are then made into "reef balls" which are lowered into the ocean to rehabilitate damaged reefs. Talk about being fish food.

And for those who wish to go beyond mere organ donation, you can donate your body outright to medical schools to teach a new generation of doctors. "When cadaver research is concluded, usually after two years, the remains are cremated without charge and buried or returned to the family for disposal."

Love beyond death

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ALMOST 30 years after Ferdie Arceo, a student of the Ateneo, laid down his life in pursuit of justice and freedom for the poor, a special someone wrote a moving letter to his parents, Reggie and Thelma. The handwritten letter arrived last week. It came as a surprise.

I wrote about Ferdie's life and death some years ago and I mentioned that among the things found on his person when he was killed was a photo of a young woman. Here is her testimony, so timely for All Souls' Day:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Arceo,

This is a letter I've been wanting to write for over 25 years but am only now able to articulate. I have felt such a need to write you because Ferdie has been with me just about every day of my life—since my early 20s anyway. I turned 50 this year.

When Ferdie died, my family kept it from me for two years because they knew how upset I would be. He and I had written to each other regularly, even when he'd already taken to the hills. When his letters stopped, I was puzzled. I knew that even if he had met someone and gotten married, he would have told me about it—we were good friends.

The idea of being in love was too "grown up" for me but from the day I met Ferdie in Mrs. Lesaca's class, I sensed his affection for me. We always communicated honestly with each other. In an exchange of letters which I remember so clearly, I asked him if his decision to forego school was wise. I also told him I could not understand the passion to help that gripped him. I'll never forget his response: "If you saw the plight of the people, you'd do the same thing." I daresay he thought more highly of me than I thought I deserved.

After I left (for the US), we communicated regularly up until about six weeks before he was killed. His last letter to me was around May of 1973. It was different from all of his previous letters from the "hills." All his other letters had been full of stories of life on the run and the gamut of emotions that came over him upon meeting and working with and for, in his words, "our people." The last letter was more personal.

The reason for this letter is to let you know and to share with you the fact that Ferdie has made his presence felt to me—EVERY TIME—I have been in need of someone to talk to. No, I don't see any ghosts, nor do I hear any voices. I just know he's there when I need someone.

There have been times in my life when I was unsure about what to do. On these occasions, his unspeaking presence always reminds me of who I am—which, in turn, makes it very clear to me how I should act. He does not tell me anything, he just reminds me of who I am, what my values are. He bears witness to what is good in me—and it helps me to do what is good and true.

During times when I've felt lonely or insecure, his presence reminds me that someone—he—has always loved me, in the highest sense of that word. Knowing that I am always loved that way dispels whatever doubts I have or whatever insecurities plague me at the moment.

When I found myself in relationships where I could not discern the other person's intentions, I would measure that person's treatment of me against the way Ferdie always treated me—and I would be able to tell if they rang true or not.

The dictionary defines "touchstone" as a stone against which the purity of another stone can be measured. Ferdie has always been my touchstone. If anything occupies my mind whose truth I am not sure of, I ask myself: Could I tell him about this without being ashamed?

He doesn't visit me only when I'm confused. I was walking to Mass one morning a few weeks ago when I sensed he was walking along with me. Quiet, but very definitely there.

I know you have had these same experiences so I feel no discomfort in sharing mine with you. I also want to thank you for having raised the truest friend I have ever known. He has helped shape my life, helped me better realize the potential in myself.

I have been active in the civil rights movement since my late teens. Ferdie was right: once I saw the suffering and injustice black Americans lived with, it was all my parents could do to keep me in school. I almost dropped out in my sophomore year. My parents told me I could go to any school of my choice, but I had to finish. It was perhaps the first adult decision I made to go back to a Catholic all-girls' school—then once I got in, to major in both poli sci and sociology. I also chose to live as the only non-black person in the "black wing" of the school dorm, a wing set aside for the few black women who were all on academic scholarship—that is, poor.

Today, I teach on weekends at St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, a completely free school for deserving and impoverished inner-city boys in the 6th to 8th grades. With the exception of one or two Hispanics, it is an all-black school. The school is supported by private donations—no government funds—so I also do some "begging."

Our kids are so poor that they come to school hungry. Can you imagine? The school is the best part of my life. I am also blest to have as my parish the main Jesuit church in these parts—their first parish in the seat of Catholicism in the USA. I have shared my J.P. Delaney S.J. stories with the Jesuits here.

In all humility and gratitude, I can say that I have a blessed and good life. I like the person I turned out to be and I am at peace with myself, my world, and most importantly, with God. You must understand that none of this would have been possible without Ferdie's help.

I hope you can join me when I say that I don't miss Ferdie at all. I don't. He's always around—I think perhaps more than he could ever be if his body walked the earth. He helped write this letter, a love letter to you, his parents.

Love,
Annie

* * *

Comments to cerespd@info.com

That strange gift

YOUNG BLOOD

LEP

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I FIRST experienced my capability of "seeing" things that others don't one night as I was sleeping. I must have been having a *bangungot* then. I was conscious but I could not move. It felt like my arms and legs were bound. Next I was falling into a deep, black, endless hole, one that had neither shape nor boundaries. Then I heard it—the demon laughing into my ear. I saw a small image of a woman with long hair and dressed in a white gown. I thought she was Mother Mary. I was running a fever then.

When I was in first year high school, our classroom was the farthest down the hallway, next to the washroom. I would often see out of the corner of my eye the silhouette of a woman in white walking to the washroom. When I looked directly at where she was, she would vanish. It didn't worry me too much since I had better things to do like listening to my Science lessons.

In second year, I was seated at the second to the last row, near the aisle. I would usually lean to my left when the teacher walked on the aisle. There were times when I would see out of the corner of my eye two feet on the floor near the last row. I would look back to see who it was and find no one there.

Once when I was in third year, our Chemistry project was picked for the school's annual Science Exhibit. My partner and I decided to improve it. We were at the science laboratory when I noticed a black silhouette looking at us. I could not see the face. I told my partner about it, and she freaked out.

She begged me not to talk about it anymore. I felt sad because I thought I was revealing to her a part of me and she could not appreciate it.

One day when our house was being renovated, I sensed somebody walking a few paces ahead of me. I did not actually see him since I was looking down that time. Then I saw a woman in black inside my room.

Another time, I saw a spirit going up the stairs to the second floor of our house. I was seated in a couch near the stairs watching TV when this happened. I could not bring myself to look at the spirit so I just focused on the TV. Since then, this spirit has made its appearance several times.

Every night I pray for the repose of the souls I have seen. I hope that my prayers will be answered. I am afraid that these souls might haunt me in my sleep or meet me face-to face.

One time my uncle, who was visiting us, entered through the kitchen door. From where I was seated at the dinner table, only the kitchen sink was visible. I saw my uncle come from the kitchen and turn left to the dining room. A girl in a pink shirt was following him. She walked straight into the maid's room.

I thought it was our maid, so I told my uncle, *"O, kasama mo pala si ate, eh."*

He was puzzled and said, *"Anong kasama? Wala akong kasama."*

My sister went to the maid's room to check and found nobody there.

When I was in college, we once went to a popular resort in Laguna. The playground was situated on a hill. From where we were seated on the swing, my boyfriend and I had a very romantic view of the sunset.

We were still there when night fell. Then I noticed, again out of the corner of my eye, a man looking at us from the top of the slide. When I looked straight at where he was standing, he was gone. This happened several times during our stay.

During our last night at the resort, our group gathered at a gazebo near the farthest cottage. We played cards bearing questions that we were supposed to answer. Mine asked, "What was the scariest thing that happened to you?" In response, I narrated my experience.

A friend disclosed that he also had the same gift. He first noticed it when he was still a Boy Scout. They were camping in a forest. One day, a fairy asked him and two of his friends to follow her. Soon they were seeing everything they had ever wanted: food, toys, etc. They did not know where they were. They were reported missing for a week. When they were found, their bodies were covered with mud. It took him a month to get back to reality.

That night he told us that one male and two female spirits were circling the gazebo. But they were good spirits, he assured us.

We all had goose bumps and moved closer to each other.

Later that night, we went back to our cottages but instead of going inside we decided to talk some more about his experiences. He was standing near a post and I was facing him. He was blocking my view, and all I could see was the lower part of the hut next to ours and the forest beyond. Then I saw two legs coming out of the forest and walking on the grass barefoot. I thought I would see the rest of him as he moved away from my friend. When this did not happen, I looked at my friend, confused. *"Tinatakpan ko na nga, tinitingnan mo pa* (I am trying to cover him, but you keep looking at him)," he chided me. I didn't know what to say.

Moments later he told me the spirits were saying goodbye to me. I couldn't believe what he was saying. He pointed toward the forest. I looked but I could not see anything. I said a hurried goodbye and tried not to look anymore.

The next morning, we left.

I cannot force anyone to believe what I have narrated here. But everything I have written is true. Some of my friends envy me for having this gift. One even told me that he would like to exchange his third eye with mine because he could not "see." I told him everyone had this gift, but only a few were privileged to use it.

Some people are afraid to be with me, thinking I am the bearer of some bad omens. Others don't believe that I can really see things they can't.

Recently during a Life in the Spirit Seminar, I asked the Lord to close my third eye because I become afraid when I feel or see them. As I was praying, I saw a blinding light. It was something straight from the movies.

Sometimes I still see spirits and it is still scary. But I tell myself I have been blessed with this gift. I hope someone will tell me how I can use this gift meaningfully. People with such gifts should be able to help the souls and spirits who are troubled.

LEP, 20, is a fourth year computer science major.

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Filipinos losing their heritage

WE cannot depend on President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to act decisively on such matters as the sale of a Juan Luna painting. It has consistently been stingy with funds for arts and culture, which only shows that for the national government, arts and culture are not a national priority.

Through the years many of our artifacts, the embodiment of our heritage, have deteriorated to a pathetic state. World War II reduced to ashes most of our documents and our Hispanic structures of wood, leaving their memory in postcards and photographs. Later, irresponsible parish priests, who listened more to their fancy rather than historicity, ordered the replacement of ancient *retablos* with gaudy and modern altars. Nowadays politicians, in the guise of conservation, continue to undertake projects that glorify the tacky and the pretentious by renovating and destroying historical edifices.

The heirloom weavings of the Tingguians were purchased for a pittance by a Frenchman who took advantage of the poverty of the mountain people. Bontoc and Kalinga jewelry that breathe a thousand-year-old civilization is gasping for air in the *eskaparates* of an Australian museum. Eighteenth-century *santos* from Bohol carved by native artisans now adorn the swimming pool of a flat somewhere in New York City.

With globalization's unhampered momentum, everything in our country is for sale: our tribal lands, government corporations, mineral resources, our women, our cheap labor, our dignity. And more recently, a foreign bidder could have bought a Luna painting.

In the 19th century, Luna together with Hidalgo challenged the notion that the *"tsonggos"* (which was how the racist colonizers labeled us) were incapable of civilization. The *frailes*, with their nihil obstats and imprimaturs, garroted our minds. From the brushes of Luna and Hidalgo, reeking of linseed oil and crushed pigments, flowed the fury of the aggrieved Indio.

With the international market remaining wide open, we stand to lose not only a Luna painting. And our future generation will be condemned to perpetual ignorance for we have denied them the opportunity to get a glimpse of the history of our nation. There is still time to rectify the situation. But we must act now.

—ALEXANDER G. UMALI,
board member, Concerned Artists of the Philippines, 65A 10th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City

A dreamer who succeeded

YOUR editorial about me last Oct. 28 ("Unwise move") needs clarification and correction.

My statement, "Don't we have the right to get rich?" was made in the context of chronicling my life as a man of modest beginnings who succeeded in business through entrepreneurship. It was not meant as a boast but it was intended to echo every man's aspirations to self-fulfillment. Had the statement been made by a man born to wealth or associated with a business empire, it would have passed without criticism. But coming from a dreamer who willed himself to success, it is being made out as the swagger of "the newly rich." There is a double standard here.

The editorial creates the impression I am on a buying spree, a "Pacman" who buys every profitable company in sight. A "Pacman" is a businessman who uses power and influence to elbow the competition out of the way to acquire a money-making enterprise.

I am not like that. My case is different. The companies I acquired or bought into are companies that had no takers. For instance, I took over The Manila Times at a time when the paper was deep in debt and management owed its staff four months in back wages. Technogas had stopped operation for more than eight months when I bought the brand and the distribution rights. Other entrepreneurs would not touch the business. BankWise, a small thrift bank, had to raise P250 million as a precondition for the Bangko Sentral's approval of its rehabilitation.

These would have been risky investments in the judgment of most mainline businessmen. I had faith however in the future of the companies. I had the wherewithal to buy into them. The amounts involved are not staggering. They are modest, by any standard.

My information is that the Spanish-Belizean Ramon Collado created his own problems: first, with his own association of retirees and its members, and separately with the Bureau of Immigration, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA).

I had nothing to do with Collado's arrest, as your editorial insinuates. The people aggrieved by his indiscretions must have seen to it that the man paid for his errors. I want him to stay so that he can face his accusers and substantiate his allegations against me and the bank. Failing that, he should suffer the consequence of his action.

I had nothing to do, directly or indirectly, with the approval of BankWise's rehabilitation proposal. I came in after the fact, not before.

I am happy to have started new ventures or rescued distressed ones, thereby creating or protecting jobs, investments and incomes, and contributing in positive ways to the economy and to the nation and, hopefully, making some money at some future date.

I am sure the INQUIRER shares these sentiments with me.

—DANTE A. ANG,
Strategic Publishing Inc., 371 A. Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

Retirees have no control over Prama funds

AS a foreign retiree with an adopted family, a home and investments here in the Philippines and as a long-standing member of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA), I am quite concerned—as I am sure you are—that the readers get a balanced view of the situation.

I do not refer to the BankWise/Dante Ang affair as it does not affect me, except for one detail. On several occasions the funds that had been transferred were referred to as "retirees' funds." They are not. They originated from membership fees many PLRA (formerly PRA) members paid Prama at a time when they thought Prama membership was compulsory for PLRA members, as well as from a share of the management fees deducted from the interests PLRA members got on their deposits. So these funds, or at least a substantial part of them, came from the retirees' contributions. However, retirees like me have absolutely no further control over these funds, which are managed by Prama, which is in turn controlled by its chair, Ramon Collado.

My concern is that the articles I have read so far seem to be heavily biased toward Prama. I was happy to have had an opportunity to talk with Neal Cruz the other day and to learn that he intended to include facts and views he had since received from other sources, but it may be useful if you also have the views of a retiree like me. My contacts with other PLRA members indicate I am not alone in holding these views.

The articles gave the impression that Prama represents the interests of PLRA members. Prama certainly does not represent my interests, and I believe this view is shared by the great majority of PLRA members. Indeed if Prama were to succeed in its persistent efforts to make membership compulsory for PLRA members and to make contributions to its various health insurance and other schemes mandatory, then I would have to consider writing off my investments and ending my days somewhere else.

To finish on a more positive note, let me say that I have a high regard for the services and benefits the PLRA has accorded retirees. I wish the PLRA well.

—H.F. SULLMAN, Bukit Idaman, Balatero, PO Box 36561, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro

Morality an excuse to bow to Saddam's will

PROF. Carlton Palm, writing from Silliman University in Dumaguete City, said that that there is "no moral ascendency in the US plans on Iraq."

Maybe so. President George W. Bush will be looking at the results of the mid-term elections on Nov. 5 to see if voters agree with the recent bi-partisan congressional support for unilateral action against Iraq if the United Nations fails to rewrite the terms for inspecting Saddam Hussein's war arsenal.

With one more referendum in hand—this one conducted among American voters—Bush will then decide on war, with or without UN sanction, shifting the full burden of accountability to the Iraqi side, where it belongs.

"Moral ascendancy" (or descendancy, take your pick) is not the issue here anymore than it was when President Harry Truman decided to nuke thousands of Japanese as a warning of worse to come if the imperial high command insisted on forcing an American assault on the home islands, in a fight to the end that US war planners estimated would cost 20,000 military casualties.

"Morality" to Truman was sparing the lives of brave Americans unfortunately at the far greater expense of Japanese lives lost in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"Moral ascendancy" is a non sequitur at best, and at worst a flimsy excuse for bending to the will of a madman. It was called "appeasement" in the late 1930s. At Hitler's mountaintop retreat in Bavaria in 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain agreed to let him "occupy" the ethnic German region of another country in exchange for a "guarantee" of lasting peace in Europe. That was the green light Hitler used to start World War II a year later. A similar green light—the current terms of UN "weapons inspections"—allows Iraq to continue dragging its feet until its nuclear capability becomes operational.

The ghosts of Truman and Chamberlain keep Bush focused and on track. Morality is not the issue here. The issue is war and peace, using the first to guarantee the second, with minimum risk to American lives, so the rest of the world can breathe easier, with one less madman wielding power. Period.

Those who ignore history, someone said, are condemned to repeat it. Bush is not one of them. With or without UN support, he will do what Truman did, and what Chamberlain failed to do: eliminate a "problem" of unthinkable dimensions if left unchecked.

Ponder that if you will where issues of "moral ascendancy" and relativity are "decided" without risk, without bloodshed and without any accountability whatsoever.

Fortunately for a world that is at risk like never before, Bush is not listening to voices like these from the safe and sound fringes of geopolitical reality. And if Professor Palm wants to know the truth, I don't think too many others are, either.

—ELLIOT ANDERSON,
Pan-ay Clarin, Misamis Occidental 7201

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

China should withdraw its missiles

THE INTERNATIONAL community has often regarded the Taiwan Strait as an "unexploded bomb" which has the potential of triggering a long war because of the hostility that China has long harbored toward Taiwan. The clearest evidence of this is that China has deployed hundreds of missiles aimed at Taiwan along its southeast coast. This hostile gesture is not only irrational but unnecessary.

If we respect the universal values of democracy, freedom and human rights, we should praise Taiwan's remarkable achievements in these areas over the past two decades. Moreover, we should also recognize the fundamental principle defended by the people of Taiwan that "any change to the present status must have the consent of its 23 million people."

Taiwan is small and poses no threat to China. It is unjust and unnecessary for China to deploy hundreds of missiles targeting the innocent people of Taiwan and to try to change the status quo through intimidation and military force.

We are very glad to learn that the European Parliament passed a resolution on Sept. 5, 2002, by an overwhelming vote of 448 to 26, calling on China to remove those missiles. This resolution, which recognizes the potential risk in the Taiwan Strait, is an important step toward defusing the bomb. I hope that the international community will continue to support this positive development in order to prevent a crisis.

After having lived through the painful experiences of the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cultural Revolution, China has over the last decade implemented with much success a series of reforms and liberalization policies that enabled it to enjoy remarkable economic growth. On the international front, China has played a big role in mediating disputes, cooperated with other countries in the campaign against international terrorism and will even host the 2008 Olympic Games.

We hope to see China become a modern nation that is more open and democratic instead of one that capitalizes on inflamed nationalism to threaten Taiwan militarily. We do not want to see China become hegemonic or embrace state terrorism. We call upon China's leaders to use political wisdom and cease being hostile toward Taiwan, and to withdraw the missiles aimed at the island. This would be a sign of goodwill and a very important step toward reconciliation.

—ROBERT T.J. SHIH,
director, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, Low Rise Tower, Pacific Star Building, Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City

Dead alive

THE ENGLISH word "funereal" is supposed to mean gloomy and mournful, not quite applicable to the funerals we have in the Philippines and in many other Asian cultures. The mourning is there, certainly, but our funerals and wakes are noisy, ostentatious and sometimes almost celebratory.

Not surprisingly, we have a Fiesta ng mga Patay, a festival of the dead, a concept that seems strange to Westerners given the way a fiesta connotes joyful celebrations. How, Western friends ask, can you have a fiesta for the dead?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

But the idea of festivities for the dead is found in many cultures in Asia, Africa and Latin America, reflecting a different view of death. Rather than looking at death as a final separation of the deceased from the living, a death becomes an occasion to strengthen links among the living, with the dead "used" as a crucial link.

Our wakes, funerals and Fiesta ng mga Patay have their roots in the pre-colonial era. Spanish accounts from the 16th and 17th centuries describe massive feasts for the dead, especially if the dearly departed was from the aristocracy. The practices varied from one place to another but generally a funeral was one big fiesta with an abundance of food and drink for guests.

The cadavers themselves were decked out in finery and dispatched to the next world with all kinds of jewelry and heirlooms. Many of our archaeological finds—porcelain plates and jars, for example—are actually grave goods. Visit the Central Bank museum on Roxas Boulevard, across from the Cultural Center, to see some of the gold jewelry, including death masks, that were used for the dead.

On the surface, all these practices reflected the idea that you could bring your worldly belongings to the next world. But our ancestors probably knew all that was nonsense, and that the funerals were intended more as occasions to strengthen social ties. Spouses and children had to launch these elaborate funerals to ratify their links to the dead. Professional mourners, usually older women, were hired to lead in the wailing and extolling of the dead for their bravery, generosity and even sexual prowess and fulfillment.

The poor were buried simply and without fanfare. It was the rich who needed grand funerals to display their wealth and power, not just to relatives and friends but, perhaps more importantly, to competitors and enemies. In parts of the Visayas, the assertion of power went as far as having the dead buried with slaves, or captives from neighboring communities.

The cadaver was an important focus, with a strong need to project the power of the deceased. The more important the deceased person was, the longer the wakes were, almost as if to ensure a lingering presence. It is not surprising that in Benguet, people learned to mummify the dead, the ultimate attempt to keep the dead "alive."

An ostentatious funeral was a way of saying, "We have so much we can afford to bury it with our dead." So important was the funeral that many groups in the Philippines (and in other parts of the world) practiced secondary burial, where, several years after a person died, bones would be retrieved and re-interred, complete with another round of festivities.

Today, we see a "democratization" of death rituals. Ironically, the funerals of the rich have become more restrained, taking on a more somber "Western" ambience, although the display of wealth continues through the type of coffin, the choice of the chapel and the burial rites.

Wakes and funerals of middle- and low-income Filipinos are more similar to that of the pre-colonial period. Often held at home, wakes are noisy, drawn-out affairs marked by non-stop eating, drinking and socializing.

But rich or poor, the dead brings the living together. Relatives converge from all over, including ones that were kept hidden through the years—the other *misis*, for example, complete with a rival Junior. The conversations revolve around the dead—yes, sexual escapades and peccadillos included, whispered now rather than sang out—even as the living begin to jostle for the inheritance.

The Spaniards gave us the Fiesta ng mga Patay, a special day to commemorate the dead. The "correct" date was All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, but, totally un-Pinoy, we decided to do things in advance, visiting grave sites on Nov. 1. (I've wondered, too, if perhaps our choice of All Saints' Day to remember the dead might be some collective expression of wistful thinking about the dearly departed.)

Whether for plain old souls or wannabe saints, the Fiesta ng mga Patay is an extension of the wake. The prayers become almost incidental, with more concern about the mundane and the affairs of the living. Over meals and mahjong, relatives tackle important decisions to be made by the family or clan, often invoking the dead: "If Papa were around, he would. . ." or "Mama always said. . ."

The full impact of this festival for the dead hit me last week as I watched a close friend's mother rushing around preparing for the Fiesta ng mga Patay. She had a long list of things to bring to the memorial park: rice, portable gas cookers, pillows, a tent. (Yes, there were plans to stay overnight.)

Then she began her phone calls, and was particularly firm with a daughter who had not lived with them for a year now: "Len, I want you to come here on Oct. 31 so we can all go together to Holy Cross." As she put down the phone, she looked at me and sighed, "*Maraming kailangang pagusapan, maraming kailangang ayusin* (There's a lot to talk about, a lot to resolve)."

Earlier that day, I'd heard her lecturing another child: "*Ayusin mo na ang buhay mo.* (It's time you fixed your life)." Indeed, the festival of the dead may well be a day for fixing the lives of the living.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Russia buries dead in hostage crisis

Hostage-takers shot dead while unconscious

MOSCOW—Russia on Tuesday buried the first victims of last week's bloody theater siege in Moscow as it unveiled plans for a new national security plan to combat the threat of "terrorism" by military means.

Police arrested dozens of people suspected of involvement in the three-day stand-off which left 117 hostages and 50 Chechen militants dead, almost all of them gassed by Russian forces in a controversial army assault.

Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Russia is drawing up a new national security plan that would see increased use of the armed forces in the wake of the crisis at a Moscow theater where armed Chechens seized 800 people last Wednesday.

"We understand that the terrorist threat to Russia, including from outside, is increasing," Ivanov said in televised remarks.

"I do not mean only perpetrators of terrorist attacks, but accomplices and those who provide financial support as well," he said after meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

Interfax cited FSB intelligence agency chief Nikolai Patrushev as saying that the plan would devote particular attention to the situation inside the southern republic of Chechnya, where Russian troops have been battling separatist forces since Oct. 1999.

With the nation still in mourning for the victims of the hostage crisis, seized during the performance of a hit musical, families buried 16 of the hostages who died.

City officials told RIA Novosti news agency that the funerals, the first to be held since the end of the theater siege, took place in four cemeteries in Moscow and the surrounding region.

Another 40 people will be buried on Wednesday, they added.

Officials said Tuesday that 41 of the Chechen hostage-takers had been shot dead during the rescue operation. Many of them were unconscious at the time from the effects of the gas, according to members of the special forces who led the assault.

A member of the special forces told Kommersant newspaper that the Russians had shot dead those Chechens who had explosives strapped to their bodies even though they were already knocked out by the gas, to avoid them triggering their human bombs.

"They shot all those who had explosives. Because people could still come to or have convulsions. To avoid anyone setting off the explosives we took extra measures," the unnamed officer said.

Russian television showed black-robed Chechen women with explosives strapped to their bodies, slumped dead in chairs after the assault.

The Chechen rebels had threatened to blow up the theater and kill all the hostages if Russia did not end its war in Chechnya.

In Chechnya, separatist fighters downed a Russian helicopter near the capital Grozny with an anti-aircraft missile, leaving four dead, Interfax reported quoting a local ministry official.

A total of 418 survivors of the Moscow hostage drama were released from hospitals by Tuesday evening, health officials said as quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency.

According to hospital officials, 245 people, including nine children, remain in medical care. Sixteen of the former hostages are still in critical condition.

A US national, Sandy Booker of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was among the dead, the US embassy in the Russian capital said Tuesday.

There were 75 non-Russian hostages, nine of whom have been confirmed dead—one American, one Dutch, one Austrian, one Belarussian, one Kazakh, one Armenian and three Ukrainians.

Putin vowed Monday that Russia would take bold action against "terrorists wherever they may be," but the crisis has renewed international pressure on Moscow to seek a political solution in tiny breakaway Chechnya.

The Russian leader vaulted to power more than two years ago with a pledge to crack down on Chechnya, where separatist militants have battled Russia for independence in two separate wars since 1994.

Moscow says Chechen separatists have links to international terrorism, including Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, and likened its handling of the hostage stand-off to the US campaign since Sept. 11. *AFP*

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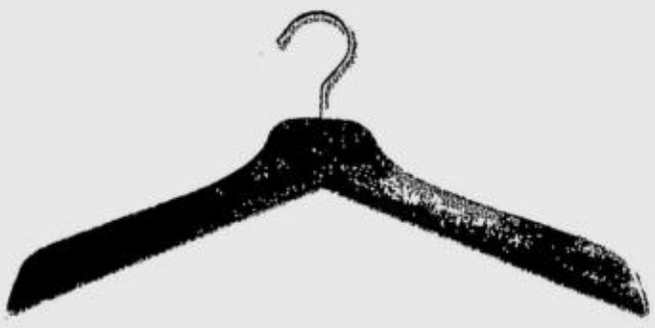


My mom and my dad

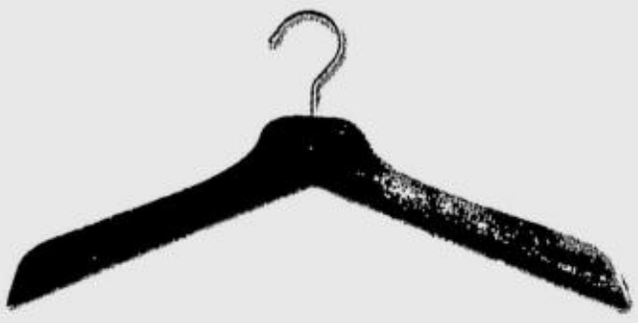
My aunt and my uncle

My husband and I

My sister and her husband

My aunt's in laws

My cousin and his wife



My twin daughters

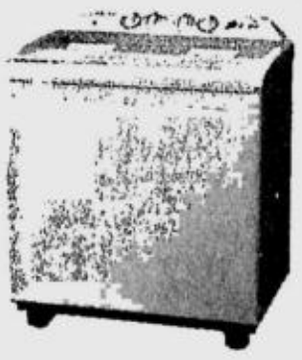
My son

My niece

My nephew

My cousin's daughter

My cousin's adopted son



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Families of Lockerbie victims strike $2.7-B deal with Libya

WASHINGTON—Lawyers for the families of victims killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, have told the US State Department they have reached a tentative $2.7-billion compensation deal with the Libyan government, officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the compensation package—under which the families of each of the 270 victims of the bombing would receive $10 million—was very similar to an offer made by Libya in May that later collapsed.

And they stressed that the families of the victims had yet to fully agree to the terms of the deal.

"We've been told by the attorneys that they have reached some sort of an agreement," one official said.

"It's not a done deal and we are a bit skeptical about whether this will pan out, but they say they do have a proposal for a settlement," the official said.

A second official said the proposed settlement would require Libya to first accept responsibility for the bombing and then establish a fund from which the compensation would be paid.

The money would be paid out in installment based on the lifting of US and UN sanctions against Tripoli, the official said, adding that the timing of the payments was nearly identical to that of the May proposal.

That offer called for the payment of $4 million to each family once UN sanctions were lifted, and an additional $4 million would be paid once US sanctions are lifted.

The final $2 million would be paid out once the United States removes Libya from its list of "state sponsors of terrorism." Libya is now one of seven countries on that list.

The May offer fell through amid confusion as to whether Tripoli had actually authorized it.

In New York, the father of one of the victims of the bombing, Dan Cohen, said it was still "very much up in the air" whether Libya would agree to accept responsibility for the attack, the "major condition" to a settlement.

"The big 'if' is that Libya has to agree to accept responsibility for the bombing, otherwise nothing else is going to happen," Cohen said. But he added: "This time we have in our hands a signed agreement, with the signature of three Libyan officials."

The deal is due to be taken to federal court Friday and ratified by a judge, he said.

US State Department spokesperson Lynn Cassell would not comment on the details of the tentative settlement, but made clear Libya would have to satisfy all of its requirements under UN Security Council resolutions before sanctions are lifted. *AFP*

Police have suspect in Bali bombings

JAKARTA—Investigators have a suspect in the Bali nightclub bombings that killed nearly 200 people—most of them foreign tourists—a top police general said Tuesday.

Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika told reporters that detectives had pieced together a composite sketch of the unnamed suspect in the Oct. 12 bombing on the basis of witness testimonies.

"He is the one who assembled and placed the bomb," said Pastika, who heads the investigation. He offered no other details except to say the suspect was an Indonesian and was being sought by police.

Pastika's statement was the first indication that the probe into the bombings was moving forward. Until now, investigators have always stressed they had no suspects in the case.

Meanwhile, police said Tuesday it could be days before they can question Abu Bakar Bashir, an ailing Muslim cleric who is suspected of being the spiritual leader of a regional terrorist network that has been blamed for the bombings.

Doctors said Bashir, who is now in a police hospital in Jakarta, needed up to four more days rest. *AP*

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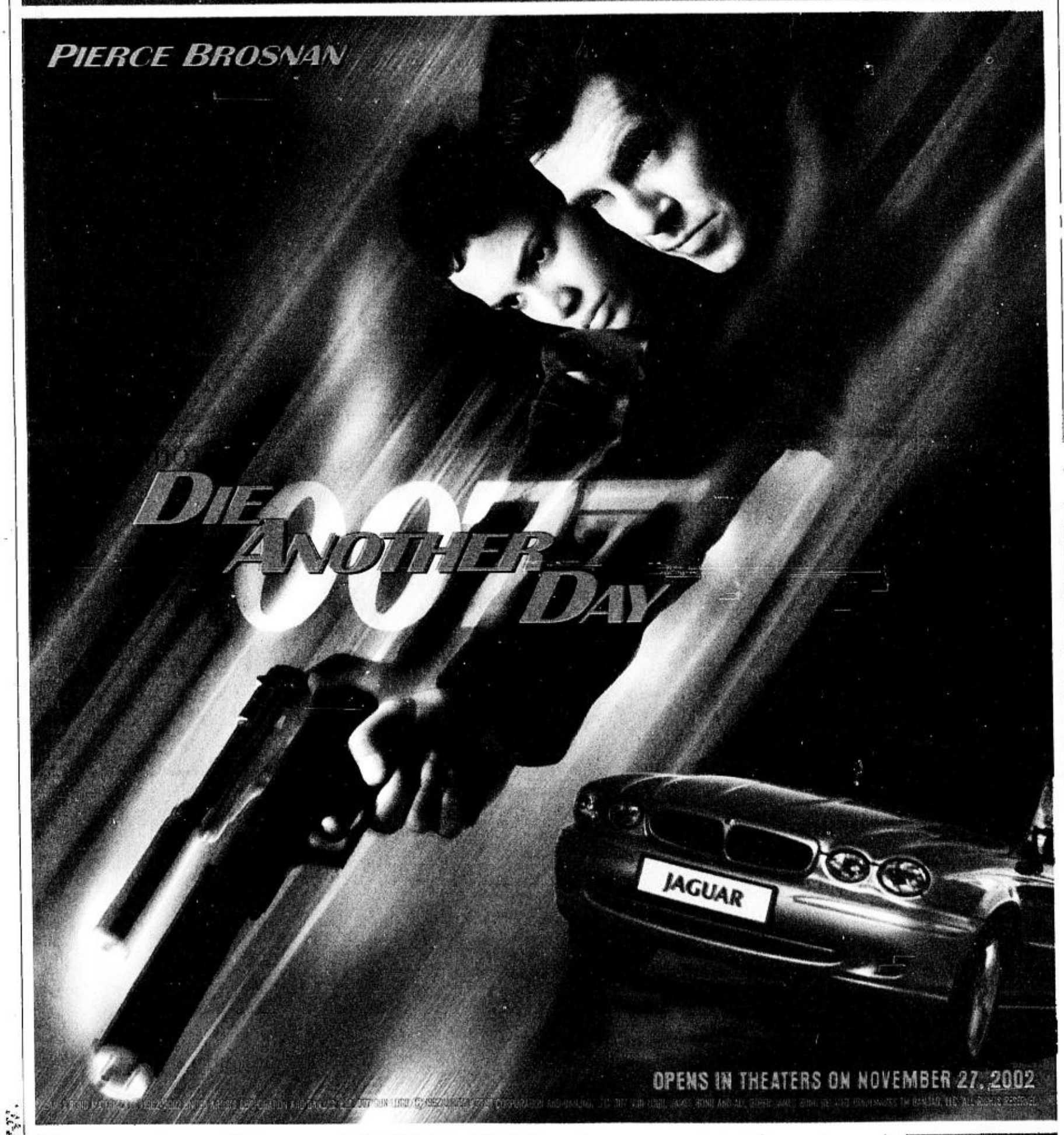

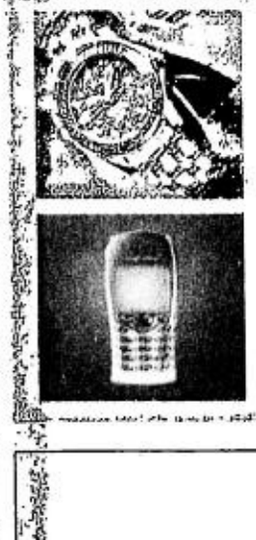

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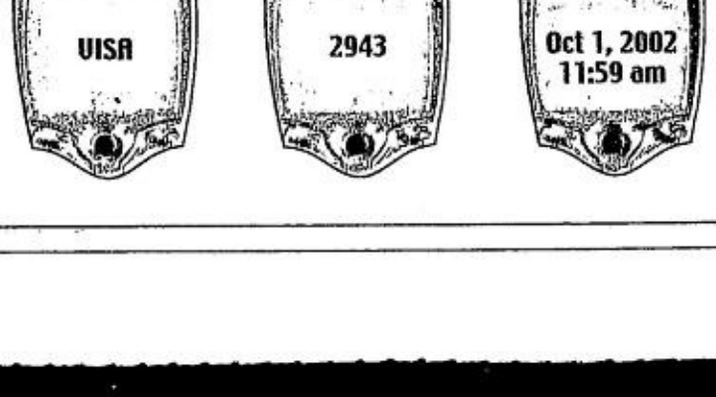


Israel's coalition gov't faces collapse

JERUSALEM—Israel's coalition government faced collapse on Wednesday in a row over funding for Jewish settlements, raising the prospect of narrow right-wing rule with no end in sight to the conflict with Palestinians.

On the eve of a parliamentary budget vote that could sunder the government and bring elections within 90 days, Palestinians formed a new cabinet that appeared to do little to foster reforms seen as crucial to defusing two years of hostilities.

Israel's sudden political crisis, coupled with the Palestinians' halting approach to democratic change, did not seem to advance Washington's agenda of containing Middle East tensions ahead of a possible campaign to disarm Iraq.

Violence in a two-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation reared its head again late on Tuesday night when a gunman entered a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, killing a girl and wounding four people before being shot dead.

Israel's unwieldy "national unity" coalition, formed to help combat the uprising, lurched toward dissolution after the Labor party vowed to reject the 2003 budget in parliament on Wednesday over its preferential funding for settlements on occupied land.

Contacts between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the Labor leader, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, continued into Wednesday's early hours in a bid to salvage the government. The budget vote was scheduled for 1000 GMT.

Sharon's right-wing Likud party has been the unswerving patron of Jewish settlement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories sought by Palestinians for a state.

It has rejected center-left Labor's demand that around 700 million shekels ($147 million) of the funds earmarked for settlements, which enjoy tax breaks and other perks, be reallocated to the poor and the elderly. *Reuters*

Federal murder charges filed vs sniper suspect

GREENBELT, Md.—John Allen Muhammad, one of two suspects in a sniper spree that left 10 people dead in the Washington area, faced federal charges on Tuesday, including six counts that carry the death penalty.

Saying little more than "Yes, sir" and "No, sir" and wearing a maroon prison jumpsuit at a hearing in suburban Greenbelt, Maryland, the 41-year-old Gulf War veteran followed along silently as the charges were read aloud.

Muhammad was charged with using a weapon to commit murder, affecting interstate commerce by extortion and other charges.

Six of the federal charges provide for the death penalty, alleging that Muhammad used a firearm while committing a violent crime that killed a person. Justice Department officials initially said there were seven death penalty charges but later amended this without explanation.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft told reporters this was appropriate, saying that as the complaint "alleges the most severe and atrocious of crimes . . . I believe the ultimate sanction ought to be available here."

The criminal complaint named seven of the 10 people killed during the October sniper spree that terrified the Washington area for three weeks, with people cut down by a single bullet, apparently at random, as they went about their normal lives.

Muhammad and his 17-year-old traveling companion, John Lee Malvo, already face six murder charges apiece in Maryland, where six of the killings occurred, and Muhammad faces an additional murder charge in Virginia. Both face attempted murder and terrorism charges in Virginia.

Malvo was not named in the federal complaint, and an affidavit accompanying the charges referred to him as "John Doe, Juvenile." *Reuters*

Over 100 dead in Vietnam fire

HO CHI MINH CITY—More than 100 people were killed in the fire that ravaged an office block in Vietnam's commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City and many others are missing, state media reported Wednesday.

Newspapers said more than 500 people were inside the six-story Saigon International Business Center, which houses many foreign companies, when the blaze erupted at lunchtime on Tuesday.

Diplomats said that at least two Britons and one American were among the dead, and that it was feared other foreign nationals were either missing or among the injured.

"Around 100 bodies have been discovered in the building including that of one foreigner," said The Lao Dong (labor) daily, without specifying a nationality.

Nguyen Thanh Tai, vice chairman of the city's People's Committee, told reporters the official death toll stood at 59, with more than 100 people injured.

But he indicated the toll was higher as the authorities had not updated the official figures. "We have been concentrating on saving people and we don't have time to put together concrete statistics."

The Ho Chi Minh City-based Tuoi Tre (youth) newspaper said many people were missing following the blaze, which began in the popular Blue discotheque, and that many injured were in a serious condition.

Investigators and rescue workers were Wednesday sifting through the charred hulk of the building in the center of the booming southern city, which has become a magnet for foreign investment.

Local residents said the fire was triggered by an electrical fault, but city officials said more time was needed before disclosing their initial report into the cause.

Nguyen Van Niem, a Ho Chi Minh City-based foreign ministry official, said "no evidence has been found that this was related to terrorism."

A local reporter for a state-run newspaper said more than 100 people were attending a wedding in the center when the blaze broke out.

Eyewitnesses described how some people were killed after jumping from windows to escape the flames. Local news reports said six people died from their injuries in hospital.

Around 60 others were taken to medical centers across the city, with local officials saying one third of them were in a life-threatening condition.

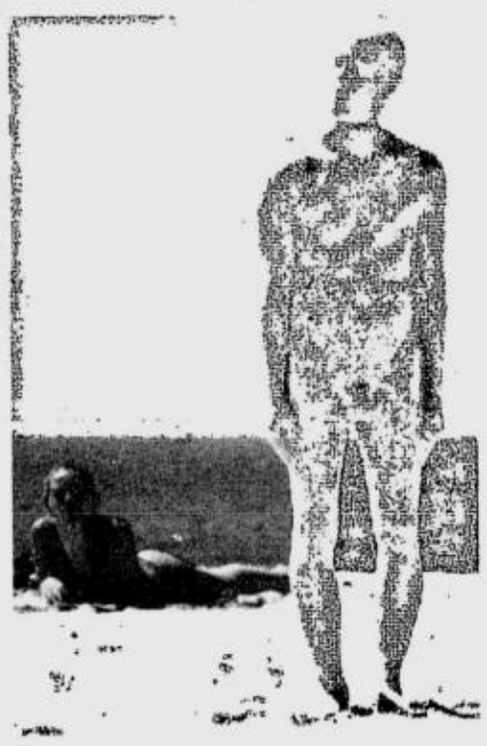
Others were treated at the scene for shock and minor injuries.

The fire raged for over five hours before firefighters brought it under control, with the aid of some 20 fire trucks, including a handful from Tan Son Nhat International Airport.

However, state television said firefighters struggled to contain the blaze because of inadequate equipment and water shortages.

"Fighting the fire was very difficult. Many people were trapped inside," said Le Tan Vu, head of the city's firefighting force.

Companies from Australia, Britain, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and the United States had offices in the center. *AFP*



SANDMAN
A girl sunbathes next to a statue of a naked man made from sand that is part of the annual Sculptures by the Sea exhibition at Sydney's Tamarama Beach Oct. 30. The exhibition, now in it's sixth year, is situated along the coastal walk between Bondi and Tamarama beaches and features more than 100 works by Australian and international artists.
REUTERS

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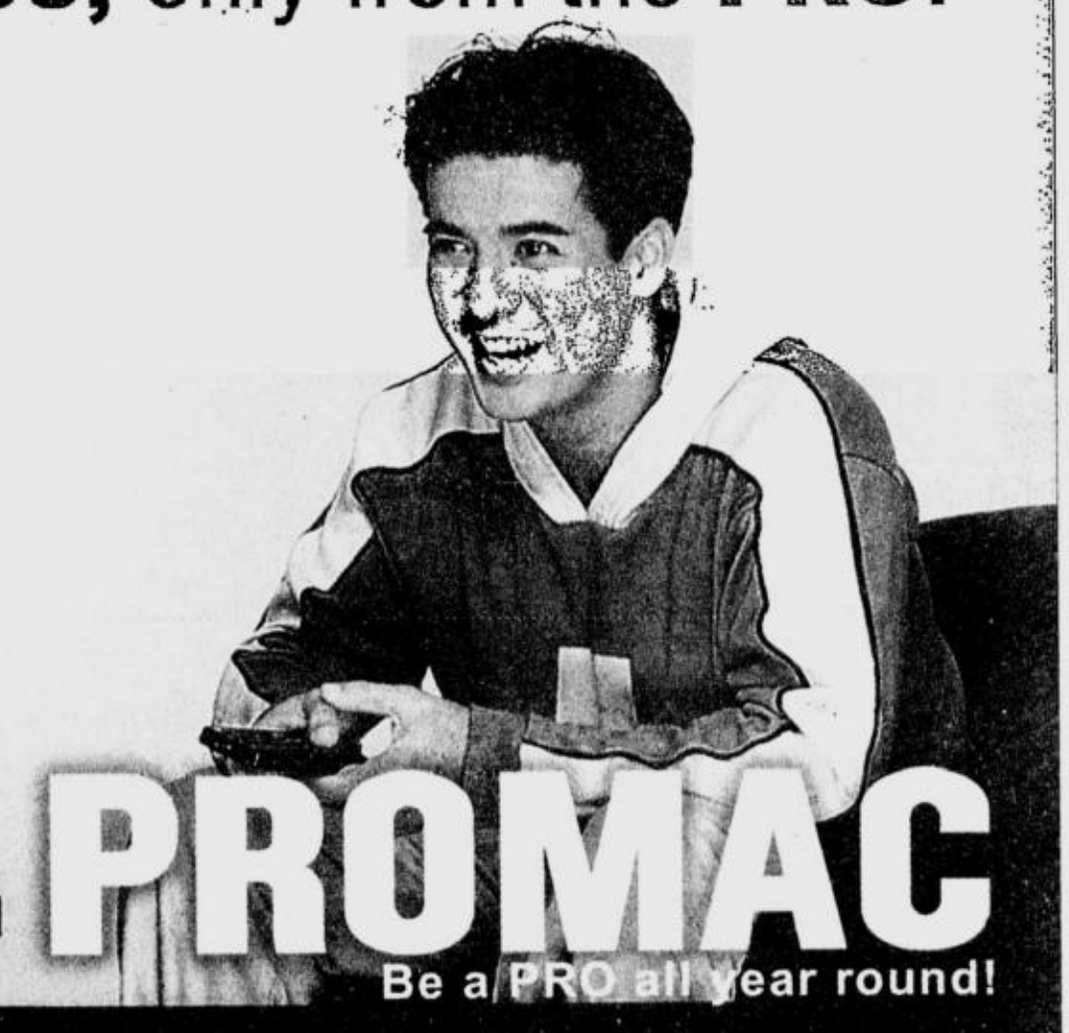

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NPA bombs seized, vacant camp found

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Army soldiers have discovered nine 81-millimeter mortar bombs and a camp believed to have been put up by the communist New People's Army (NPA) during separate operations last week.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commander of the 8th Infantry Division, inspected the recovered explosives when he visited on Sunday the 43rd Infantry Battalion headquarters in Barangay Hibod-hibod, Sogod town, Southern Leyte.

The live mortar shells were recovered by elements of the Hilaan-Pongon patrol base led by T/Sgt. Jerry Sibayan about a kilometer away from the village proper of Barangay Olisihan, Bontoc, Southern Leyte on Oct. 21.

Lt. Col. George Rabusa, commanding officer of the 43rd IB, said village officials tipped the soldiers off on the existence of the explosives said to be owned by NPA rebels belonging to the Evelyn Dublin Command of the Leyte Front Committee 2.

According to the explosive and ordnance disposal team from the 43rd IB's division headquarters, the seized explosives could be used by the rebels as booby traps or land mines against government forces or to sabotage vital installations, said Capt. Noel Delerio, 43rd IB spokespersons.

The explosives are capable of destroying communications towers and bridges, he added.

Also presented during Dominguez's visit were a US caliber .30 M1 Garand rifle with several clips and ammunition and two locally made caliber .38 pistols.

These firearms were surrendered by some residents of Barangay Monterico, Baybay, Leyte to the Bravo Company, 43rd IB.

Dominguez was supposed to visit on Sunday a cave that the NPA allegedly uses as a camp near Barangay Libertad, Hilongos, Leyte but this did not push through due to bad weather.

Capt. Constancio Espina II, 8th ID spokesperson, said the abandoned NPA cave encampment was discovered on Oct. 23 by troops from the Special Forces who were conducting a patrol in the area.

The cave, which could accommodate 200 to 300 persons, has multiple entry points and exits and it also has fortifications.

Espina said the rebels left behind their medicines and foodstuffs when they hastily abandoned their camp.

He added that the latest discovery raised the number of enemy camps overran by soldiers in Eastern Visayas to 14 since January this year.

On Aug. 14, the military discovered an underground NPA camp in Sitio Peqa, Barangay San Andres, Catbalogan, Samar, or about 10 kilometers away from the 8th ID headquarters in that town. The camp had two bedrooms and a large kitchen and could accommodate at least 15 persons.

In July, two abandoned rest areas were separately discovered by soldiers in Barangay Mabini, Merida, Leyte and in Barangay Kaduhaan, Palompon, Leyte. Each camp could accommodate 20 persons.

The government has stepped up its offensives against NPA rebels following the pullout of the rebels from peace talks with the administration of President Macapagal.

The rebels were protesting alleged violations of earlier agreements. *With a report from Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Alert high over attack on oil depots

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The oil depots of 11 companies operating in Central Luzon were placed under "very tight" security after police officials were alerted of a "terrorist plan to blow (these) up," a report here said on Tuesday.

The order to tighten the security in and around the storage tanks of Petron, Total/Finale ET, Liquid Gas Philippines, Oil Link International, Shell, Yvette Marketing, Coastal Subic, Shell, Caltex Pyrca Gases and I/E Terminal was issued to police officials in Tarlac, Bulacan, Zambales, Pampanga and Olongapo City.

The order came from the directorate for operations of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame, the report said.

It did not give details of the alleged terrorist plan that are supposedly targeting these facilities.

Police officials were, however, ordered to coordinate the security measures with the military, local government officials and government agencies in those areas.

Among the five instructions in the memorandum include patrols of shorelines near the oil depots.

Areas around oil refineries in Limay, Bataan had been tightly secured by the Army and the Coast Guard, it was learned.

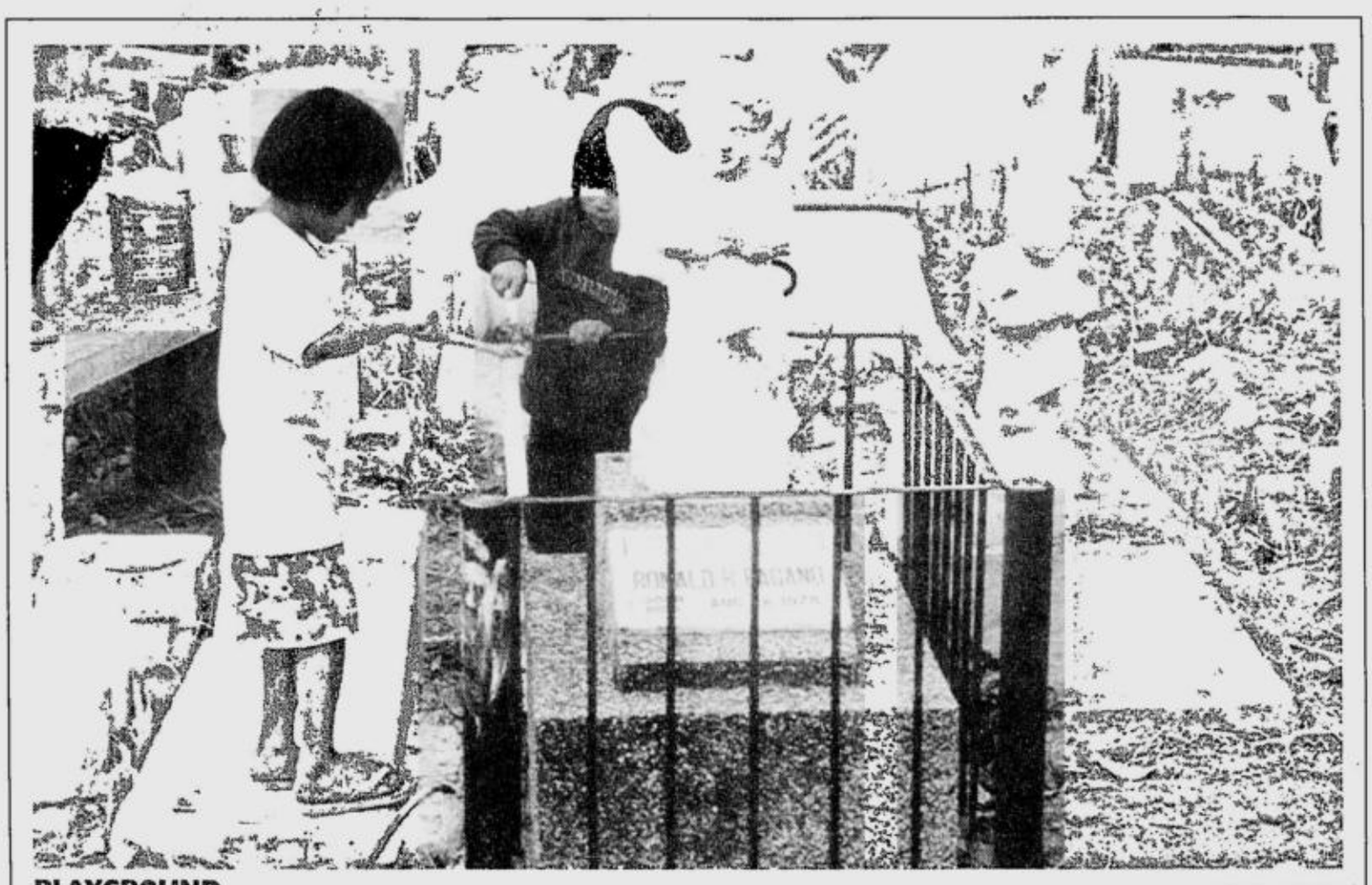
Police officials in Central Luzon also received on Monday copies of President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive on internal security.

The directive instructed local executives to "take the lead role in the fight against terrorism."

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has expressed willingness to lend their K-9 units, composed of bomb-sniffing dogs, to the local governments for a fee to help the LGUs deal with terrorist threats.

Gen. Benjamin Defensor, AFP chief, refused to say how much the AFP would charge the LGUs for the bomb-sniffing dogs.

Most of the dogs were seen doing the rounds of malls and other public places following bomb attacks in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



PLAYGROUND TOOTS SOBERANO

Cemeteries nationwide turn into noisy, crowded picnic and playgrounds again as millions of Filipinos flock to them to remember their dead. In Baguio City, two girls find time to play in the local cemetery hours before it transforms into a party place.

Importers agree to buy local veggies

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Vegetable importers have agreed to buy their supplies directly from farmers of Benguet and Mt. Province, resolving a controversy that had surrounded the importation of Australian produce.

The imports and smuggled Chinese vegetables have displaced P21 million worth of Cordillera-grown produce from Metro Manila and Cebu markets since April, said Councilor John Kim, chair of the council's committee on agriculture.

Kim, a member of a government task force investigating the vegetable industry crisis, said the foreign vegetables almost caused the industry's collapse.

He said nine farmers' representatives agreed to comply with the quality requirements of importers.

A meeting was facilitated by Blo Umpar Adiong, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), whom farmers had been blaming for their problems.

"It was the BPI's indiscriminate importation clearances which allowed importers to go straight to the overseas producers at the expense of local farmers," Kim said.

Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias said earlier that over 300 importers got clearances since Typhoon "Feria" destroyed vegetable plantations last year.

"We even presented the importers with samples of the vegetables . . . and they were surprised about the quality. It turned out that we had the kind of vegetables they needed," Kim said.

The two groups disagreed on prices, however. Importers insist on government schedule of "trigger prices" which "made the foreign vegetables very attractive to them," Kim said.

Trigger prices are levels that determine supply situation in the market. Once a trigger price is breached, importation is allowed.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas had recommended a new scale of trigger prices to the Department of Agriculture, after noting that the current "trigger prices" are "ridiculously low."

The DA set the trigger price of potatoes at P6 a kilogram. "No farmer can make potatoes and sell them at those prices," Molintas said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Transport strike effects felt in Cebu, C. Luzon

WHILE most of Metro Manila barely felt the effects of a transport strike against oil price increases, the protest action was effective in raising concerns over the issue and, in some areas, in paralyzing transportation.

In Cebu City, a drivers' group started a daily two-hour work stoppage that pulled out public utility vehicles from three major routes.

Alex Hugo, chair of the Nagkahiusang Driver sa Sugbo (Nadsu or United Drivers in Cebu), said jeeps stopped taking passengers from noon to 2 p.m.

The routes from where the jeeps were pulled out were Barangay Guadalupe to SM City in the reclamation area; Barangay Lahug to SM City and Barangay Bulacao Pardo to SM City.

The drivers staged the protest in support of a bigger strike that some said fizzled out in Metro Manila.

Hugo said the Cebu drivers would conduct a two-hour work stoppage everyday at selected routes in Cebu to call the government's attention to the continuing increase in oil prices.

The drivers are also demanding government attention for the plight of drivers.

Other complaints

Some of the drivers are complaining of excessive fines for traffic violations and extortion by traffic policemen.

The Nadsu is an organization of 8,000 drivers with 34 chapters in Cebu province.

Hugo said the series of protest actions would peak next month when the Nadsu members conduct a transport strike next month should the government refuse their demand for a rollback of oil prices or a P1 increase in fare.

In Central Luzon, school officials in Angeles City suspended classes in anticipation of the strike on Tuesday.

At the Holy Angel University, the scheduled periodical examinations for some 6,000 high school students were postponed for next week.

The high school principal apologized for failing to announce the suspension earlier and advised parents to fetch their children from the school.

The Angeles University Foundation also suspended its classes.

While the strike was scheduled from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., several drivers continued to ply their routes until around 9 a.m.

As early as Monday morning, militant organizations led by the Kilusan Kontra Kartel (KKK) and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) advised students and commuters through a local radio station to stay home Tuesday to avoid getting stranded due to the transport strike.

Increases

Rolando Ilag, KKK spokesperson, said it was the ninth time that the giant oil companies had increased the prices of petroleum products this year. He said public transport drivers could no longer afford another round of oil price increases.

Ilag echoed the demands of drivers for a P1 fare hike. The commuters, on the other hand, are opposing the drivers' demand.

Only a few tricycle drivers defied the calls of transport leaders to join the 12-hour protest.

Senior Supt. Angelito Pacia, city police director, said the strike was "peaceful."

Drivers of jeeps and mini-buses plying the Arayat-Angeles and Magalang-Angeles routes also joined the strike.

Three major transport groups in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga's capital, did not participate in the protest.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police director, said the transport strike took place only in Angeles City. No similar protests occurred in other parts of the region, he said.

Deregulation

Some protesters blamed the deregulation of the oil industry for the increase in oil prices, but industry officials said the deregulation was not to blame for the increases.

Some oil firms are saying that deregulation has even benefited consumers because it spurred competition among players in the industry.

But although new oil firms were allowed to enter the Philippine market, they fail to compete with the bigger multinational oil companies. *Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau and Jun Malig, Tonette Orejas, Ronaldo Dizon and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 kidnapping suspects held

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two suspects in the kidnapping of a businessman, his wife, their nurse and driver were arrested in a remote village in Tantangan, South Cotabato on Monday morning.

Senior Supt. Romeo Rufino, South Cotabato police chief, identified the suspects as Abbex Bravo Salipada alias Commander Aladakip and Abdullah Besalao alias Datu Iro.

The two were arrested in Barangay Dumadalig by virtue of an arrest warrant issued by a local court.

The suspects, all residents of the area, did not resist arrest.

They were facing charges of kidnapping with serious illegal detention in connection with the kidnapping in August of Gaudioso Villasor, his wife Carmina, nurse Jovelyn Canaan and driver Aries Aban.

The victims were on their way to General Santos on board a Mercedes Benz van when armed men flagged down their vehicle in Barangay Bigal, Datu Paglas town in Maguindanao. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Politicos' kin, allies reign in village exec polls

CITY OF MALOLOS—Relatives of politicians have basked in the limelight in the Association of Barangay Captains' (ABC) federation elections on Monday in Central and Northern Luzon.

In Bulacan, a brother of Gov. Josefina de la Cruz bagged the ABC provincial federation post, while in Pangasinan, a brother of Rep. Amado Espino Jr. won.

In Pampanga, the son of Gov. Manuel Lapid took the post after his lone opponent backed out from the race last week.

The ABC provincial president will sit as an ex-officio member of the provincial board.

In the Bulacan race, Jonjon Mendoza, younger brother of De la Cruz, defeated incumbent ABC federation president Herminigildo Pagdanganan in the race.

Pagdanganan, a brother of former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, received only three votes against Mendoza's 21.

Mendoza, neophyte politician, was elected barangay chair of Duhat in Bocaue town in July.

In Pangasinan, Amadeo Espino, 41, won the ABC post against Roland Villegas, ABC chair of San Fabian town.

Espino, barangay captain of Cacandonga in Basista town, won 32-15 over Villegas.

Espino was thrown into the ABC race after his twin brother, Victor, the former ABC president of their town, died two months ago.

In Pampanga, Mark Lapid ran unopposed for the top ABC post in the province after his closest contender backed out of the race last week.

"I gave way to show that Pampanga is united," said Cesar Magat, ABC Minalin president and a long-time barangay captain in the town.

Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores said the "order to unite the province came from President (Macapagal-Arroyo) herself." He said Magat's withdrawal was the consensus of barangay captains.

The young Lapid ran for barangay captain after completing three terms as Sangguniang Kabataan representative in the provincial board, where he was an ex-officio member.

In Ilocos Sur, a close ally of former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson won the top ABC post in the province.

Ponciano Bagbagen, ABC president of Lidlidda town, ran unopposed after his opponents withdrew from the race.

The early candidates were Noel Singson of Candon City and Benjamin Santella of Cabugao town.

Singson is the younger brother of Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson while Santella is Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano's cousin.

Reports here said Singson and Santella withdrew after learning that Bagbagen was endorsed by Singson. *Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Flaws found in trial run of nat'l ID system

BAGUIO CITY—Tourists visiting this city would have been forced to fall in line at City Hall to secure their "basic city identification clearances (Basic City ID)" under Baguio's new anti-terrorism ordinances.

But Mayor Bernardo Vergara immediately deleted this "counter-terrorism" measure on Monday from the draft local ordinance that would pilot the government's national identification system.

Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña had volunteered to test the controversial unified identification program on Oct. 21, following a meeting with the President and 21 city mayors, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

But this early, Vergara and several councilors have been busy trimming the ordinance's provisions which clash head-on with a 1997 Supreme Court ruling and the Bill of Rights.

Section 3 of the proposed local measure, for example, requires city transients up to 24 hours upon their arrival here to secure a clearance from the city tourism office "relative to his transient stay either as vacationist or tourist and for the issuance of a Basic City ID . . . bearing a population reference number."

A member of Vergara's staff said the city government withdrew the Section after realizing that it would have discouraged tourists.

Baguio lawyers have also raised concerns this week that the proposed ordinance is similar to a 1997 administrative order issued by former President Fidel Ramos, which the Supreme Court quashed the following year.

Like the aborted Ramos directive, the pilot ordinance focuses on the "need to establish an effective basic system of registering for population reference purposes . . . to hasten the delivery of basic government services."

The Supreme Court ruled in "Ople vs Ruben Torres" that Ramos' population reference system still required legislation.

The court also pointed out that the ambiguity in Ramos' directive had the character of a "roving authority to store or retrieve information" from Filipinos, which came dangerously close to "an invasion of privacy."

In "simplifying bureaucratic procedures" covering taxation, financing, and public certifications for births, marriages and deaths, the proposed Baguio ID system will require 17 bits of information from every city resident.

Each ID will reflect the following: A person's name; his or her city address; date and place of birth; sex; nationality; height and weight; blood type; the name of his or her spouse and parents; and a provincial address for migrants.

The same ID will contain information about a person's personal distinctive marks; place of employment or school; a contact person in cases of emergencies; and an organ donor preference, which are normally obtained from volunteers.

"We realized early on that what we have here is a system for good governance," a staff member of the mayor said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

REMINDER TOOTS SOBERANO

A shoe left at the scene of a four-vehicle smashup in Camp 7, Baguio City serves as a reminder of the tragedy that befell the passengers and drivers of the vehicles involved in the accident. A woman was in critical condition while 17 others suffered serious injuries in the accident Oct. 28.

PNP chief appoints former top cop of Cebu City to head unit for reforms

DIRECTOR General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, has ordered the PNP's 113,000 police officers to unite for reforms in the police force.

Ebdane appointed Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. to a new unit in the PNP that Ebdane said would help him bring about reforms.

In a statement, Ebdane said a new shift of direction was needed to improve the services of the PNP.

"We will develop a new standard of performance evaluation: Value for money. The quality of police service should be commensurate to the value of taxpayers' money," he said.

During the Non-Uniformed Personnel Trainer's Training Course held Sept. 23, Ebdane gave special mention to two directorates—the Directorate for Human Resource and Doctrines Development (DHRDD) and Directorate for Police Community Relations (DPCR).

The DHRDD and DPCR would now be in the front line of reforms.

"Education, training and benefits improvement is our investment in the police who will do battle to win the streets," Ebdane said.

Razon and Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon accepted the appointments to head the DHRDD and DPCR.

Razon said he wanted to pass on his firm belief that he can help policemen attain proper education.

He said policemen need education to be more effective.

"We will get the job done with three key actions," Ebdane said.

He said there is no room for weak and indecisive directors who could not discipline their subordinates.

Razon said he was confident he could meet the challenge for reforms.

Kidnapped wife of trader freed

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROSALES, Pangasinan—The wife of a Chinese-Filipino businessman abducted last month was released unharmed Monday, but the family refused to say if ransom was paid.

A police source said Gina Liu So was left by her abductors at about 4:30 a.m. Tuesday somewhere in Victoria, Tarlac.

So could not describe the vehicle used to bring her to Tarlac because she was blindfolded, the source said.

When So was dropped off in Victoria, she hired a tricycle and asked to be taken to the police station where she called her family in Rosales.

The source said the victim, the wife of businessman Rene So, "lost some weight but was otherwise okay."

The INQUIRER tried to reach members of the So family but they refused to give any information.

Police said the family refused to cooperate with them during the rescue operations and could have dealt directly with the kidnappers.

The source said So, a mother of three, was taken to a warehouse, with no window or light. So, however, was fed well by her captors, according to the source.

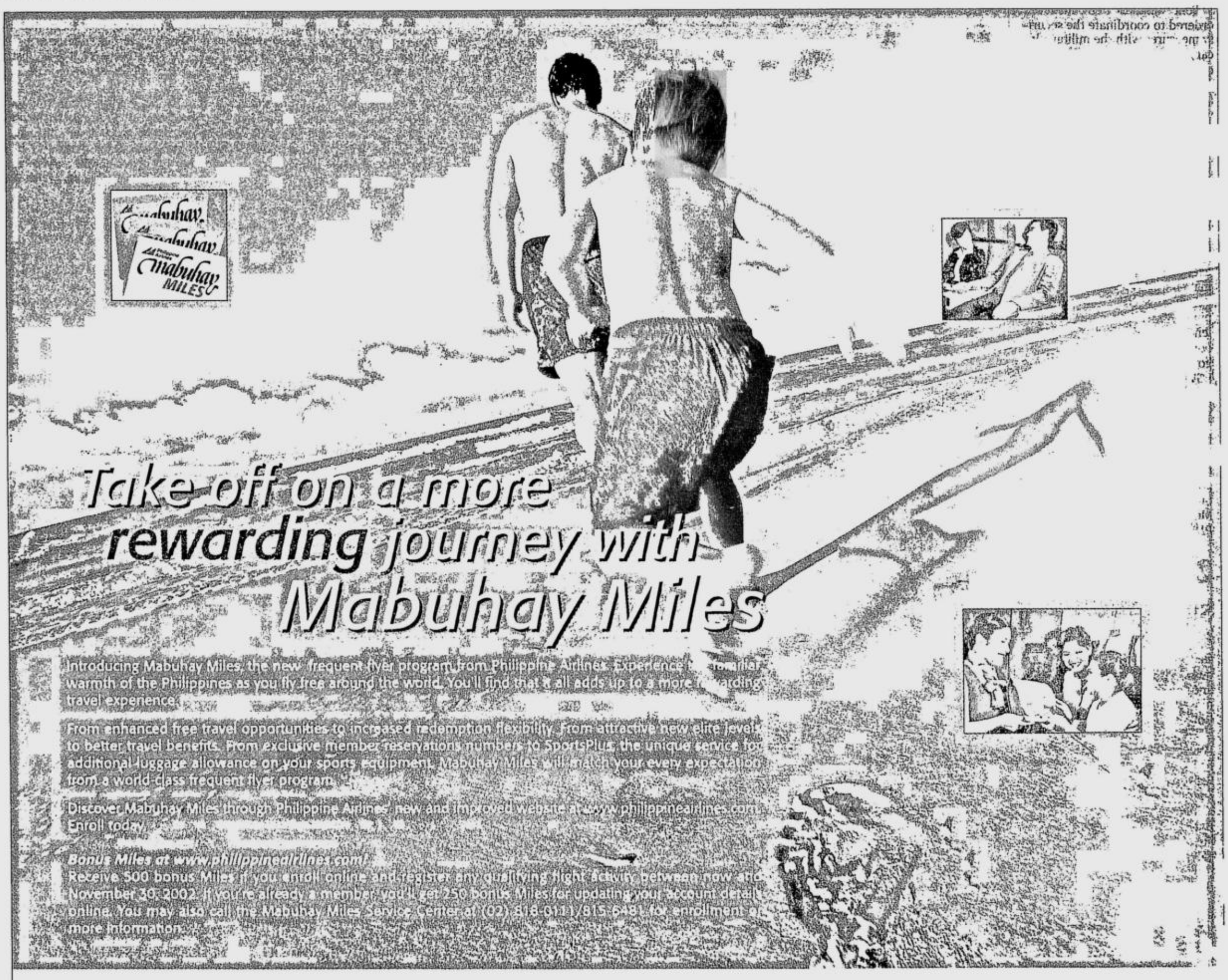
The victim was taken by four men last Sept. 14 while she was tending the family-owned construction supply store in Barangay Carmen in Rosales.

Police reports said the four men arrived at the Sos' Golden Lumber at about 5:30 p.m. The men entered the store pretending to be customers.

One of them approached So, who was sitting behind a desk, pointed a gun at her and dragged her into their car.

A police officer said So was abducted as the store was about to close and there were few customers.

Witnesses said the car bearing So sped toward the direction of Nueva Ecija.



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INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Vietnamese want to stay—for good

By Dominique Monera-Tabora
Puerto Princesa City

EVERY morning I wake up with the knowledge that I am still undocumented," said Che Nhat Giao, a 37-year-old Vietnamese who has been living in Puerto Princesa City for the past 13 years.

Che, who chairs the Viet Ville Ecological and Cultural Development Center, urged Filipinos to extend their generosity once more by legally recognizing them as residents of the Philippines. He made the appeal during a public hearing on the proposed Social Integration Act of the remaining Vietnamese nationals in Puerto Princesa on Oct. 10.

"We are very lucky to have landed in the Philippines after escaping the communist regime in Vietnam," he said. "Only the Filipino people helped us and did not betray us."

Che was working as an electrical engineer in Vietnam when he left the country in May 1989. "Going back will bring back all the bad memories of the communist regime and the very harsh life we escaped from," he said.

While he conceded that "the economy in Vietnam is okay now, the political situation is still the same," he said. "We would still be uncomfortable and different as there is still no democracy there."

Che's parents are in Vietnam, while his siblings are in the United States.

Huong Thi Xuan also left Vietnam in May 1989. A mother of three who were all born in Palawan, Huong does not want to go back to Vietnam as she finds life in Palawan "very good" and she has a lot of Filipino friends in the city.

She considers herself "very lucky that we stayed in the Philippines. Filipinos are very kind. Other Vietnamese, who stayed in other countries like Malaysia, were all forcibly repatriated to Vietnam."

Bich Thuy Nguyen finds Palawan very peaceful and likes its environment. She married a fellow Vietnamese in Palawan.

"I hope somebody can help us . . . I like it here," said Nguyen Thi Hong. However, she would also like to have a passport so she can visit her ailing father in Vietnam.

A devout Catholic, Nguyen is proud that her 7-year-old son, who studies in the Holy Trinity College, is now an altar boy. During the public hearing, her son, Nguyen Toan Kha, sang the Philippine National Anthem while waving a Philippine flag.

The Vietnamese may soon have permanent residency status as the House committee on justice approved the Social Integration Act. Chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino C. Libanan, the committee consolidated two bills filed separately by Palawan Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra and Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga, granting permanent residency status to some 1,800 Vietnamese nationals in the country.

No one objected during the hearing.

Fall of Saigon

For more than 13 years, 250 Vietnamese and their dependents have been staying in Palawan. Most of the children were born in Puerto Princesa.

After the fall of Saigon to the Communists in 1975, thousands of Vietnamese fled as refugees and came to Palawan where the Philippine First Asylum Camp (PFAC), which was funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was established inside a holding facility of the military's Western Command.

Around 1,400 refugees returned to Vietnam from 1989 to 1994 under the voluntary repatriation program. In 1995, only 127 went back on their own.

After the UNHCR cut off support that led to the closure of the PFAC in 1996, the remaining Vietnamese resisted repatriation and opted to stay. Their plight drew national and local support after dozens of their countrymen were dragged to the airport to be flown to Vietnam on Feb. 14, 1996.

The memories are still fresh in the mind of Che, who had to hide in a dry latrine for four days, "not knowing when I would come out as I did not want to go back to Vietnam."

Che believes that "to have a good life in Vietnam, you have to belong to the Communist Party. There is always discrimination and they always look at your background."

He and other Vietnamese who resisted repatriation regarded Bishop Ramon Arguelles as their savior during those critical moments. It was Arguelles who performed the first Mass on the site where the Vietnamese Village was established on Oct. 15, 1996.

Provincial board member Gerry Ortega described the Mass as "very emotional." Local residents and members of the Couples for Christ were crying during the Offertory as hollow blocks, hammers and nails were presented so the Vietnamese can build their houses, he added.

Viet Village

The 10-hectare Viet Village in Puerto Princesa was built through the initiative of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. Located in Sta. Lourdes, some 15 kilometers from the city's main district, the place was established through the help of the Center for Assistance of Displaced People and donations from Vietnamese residents in the US and other countries.

The village has 150 uniformly built houses, a restaurant, bakery, *chao long* (rice noodle) factory and a small fish sauce factory that employ some of the Vietnamese. It also has a day-care center, electricity and water systems, as well as Catholic and Buddhist churches, and a seven-hectare lot for planting.

Sr. Maura Flores of the Daughters of Charity has been working with the Vietnamese since 1975. While only a small percentage of the Vietnamese are Catholics, she sees the Vietnamese village as "a very good picture of ecumenism."

VIETNAMESE nationals express hopes of becoming permanent residents during a recent public hearing on the proposed Social Integration Act conducted by the House committee on justice in Puerto Princesa City. GERALDFORD TICKE

During the public hearing, she could not contain her elation. "We have been praying for this for a long, long time that is why I am very happy with what happened today. This is the result of our prayers from the very beginning," she enthused.

Bishop Pedro Arigo of the Puerto Princesa Vicariate vouched for the social acceptability of the Vietnamese. He stressed during the hearing that "the Vietnamese nationals have become a part of our community in Puerto Princesa and to deny their request for permanent residency is to deny their basic human rights."

Provincial police director Supt. Michael Garaez attested that during the past 10 years when he has been working in the city, he has not heard of any crime committed by Vietnamese.

"But they are the ones being taken advantage of by some Filipinos," he revealed.

Mitra said the remaining Vietnamese were "vulnerable to harassment and abuse, and are subject to deportation; their children born or raised in the Philippines are not eligible for further education."

Since their relocation in Viet Ville in 1996, the Vietnamese have proven themselves to be "self-reliant, peace-loving, law-abiding and civic-oriented individuals, earning the respect of the community," Mitra said.

"Despite this, they still could not enjoy the freedom they deserve like any other person in a free world. They have yet to live without anxiety," he added. "With their perseverance to be economically self-reliant individuals, they still have to earn legal recognition from the government of the Philippines."

Permanent residency

Mitra filed House Bill 5271 seeking to grant the remaining Vietnamese nationals permanent residence status. Earlier, Barinaga filed House Bill 1272 with the same intention.

Ruben Fondevilla, Department of Justice state counselor, said the term "refugee" was removed in Mitra's version as the remaining Vietnamese did not fit the technical definition of a refugee. Fondevilla stressed that if they were refugees, there would be no need for the Philippine government to grant them permanent residency.

The 1,700 remaining Vietnamese in the country, including their dependents, arrived in Palawan after the cutoff date of March 21, 1989 and were thus screened by the Bureau of Immigration.

Fondevilla said since the Vietnamese left after the war, they were classified as economic migrants. He also emphasized during the public hearing that the remaining Vietnamese did not qualify for permanent residency under the present immigration rules, so there was a need for a new legislation to protect them from arrests.

The UNHCR representative to the hearing commended the Philippine government for respecting the rights of the Vietnamese.

One indication of the social acceptance of the Vietnamese in Palawan is the proliferation of "*chao long*" restaurants from the southern municipality of Brooke's Point up to the northern municipality of Taytay.

Palaweños who cannot properly pronounce the Vietnamese names generally address every Vietnamese as "my friend." Thus, for Ortega, "we cannot imagine Palawan without the Vietnamese."

House bill

The CBCP, UNHCR, Puerto Princesa City council, provincial board and civic and religious groups have been appealing to the government to legitimize their stay here.

"While our countrymen who seek economic refuge are forcibly repatriated, it's time to show the whole world that we put into practice our adherence to internally recognized principles on human rights enshrined in our constitution," said Mitra.

Likewise, Barinaga stated in his bil that "public interest demands that we respond to the request of these distressed refugees in a manner befitting the Philippines' role as the beacon of democracy in the post-Edsa Far East."

Libanan is optimistic that the House will pass the bill before the yearend.

Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval and Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin also sought a reduction in the application fees for the remaining Vietnamese.

"We hope that our trial will soon be over," Che expressed after the committee on justice endorsed for plenary approval the Social Integration Act. "It was a long journey to freedom," he added, as he reflected that "we had to be a refugee to experience the generosity of the Filipino people."

Che said "it's very prophetic that when we escaped Vietnam, we first landed on Pag-asa Island, the Island of Hope, in the municipality of Kalayaan."

'Pangutkutan': Hanunuo Mangyan burial rite lives on

By Madonna T. Virola
Calapan City

SOMETIME in 2000, the Communication for Evangelization and Development Center of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, where I used to work, invited me to capture on camera the Hanunuo Mangyan's burial rite in Oriental Mindoro's southernmost town of Bulalacao.

I remember that Sr. Maggiorina N. Arenas, now a Mother Teresa awardee, in her old age, came to our office. We went up to Barangay Agong where the nun's little hut was located. (She had left the convent and had been doing mission work with the Mangyans).

[illegible]r evening, a pig was butchered, offered to the dead and fed to the community. The event appeared like a celebration because people from the different Mangyan communities came to participate.

HANUNUO Mangyans dig the remains of the dead a year after it was buried for a second interment. MADONNA VIROLA

"During the *pangutkutan* (disinterment), we make the dead alive like Jesus Christ who rose again after three days," said community leader Bapa Unaw Bugnot. Bapa Unaw is called *tanungan* because he is consulted by the community for decision-making, such as whether to welcome a stranger to the Mangyan area.

The Hanunuo Mangyan burial has two phases. The first involves the burial of the corpse in the ground, Renato Zosimo Bilog Evangelista, the first Mangyan lawyer, said during a photo exhibit at the Mangyan Heritage Center at the Bishop Finemann Center in Calapan City.

Second burial

After about a year, when the smell of the decomposing body has subsided, the bones are dug up with a bamboo and the *kutkutan* starts. This is the retrieval of the bones, in preparation for the second burial, Evangelista explained.

The second burial was what I had witnessed.

The bones, arranged according to body structure, were placed inside a bundle made of white cloth. The left-side bones and the right-side bones were kept separate. The small bones like those of the fingers and the feet were placed next.

When the bones were all inside, the bundle was tied up at the four ends. It was then dressed up with the clothes of a male or a female, especially made for the occasion. A belt and a skirt were added for the female. This ritual is shown in the photo exhibit on *pangutkutan*.

I noticed that personal belongings, which were used daily by the deceased when he/she was still alive, were placed in another bundle and buried with him/her. "This is done so that wherever the soul goes, he has some things to use especially in his work. We believe in life after death," said Bapa Unaw.

The nearest relative of the dead carried the bundle to the house of the dead, and all of us followed one by one in a long line. We followed the same order in going to the burial ground and on our way to the house of the dead (a *nipa* hut).

Losing the dead

"If you are the first in line in going to the burial ground, you will be the last in line when you leave the burial ground. This is done so that the soul of the dead won't be lost," said 52-year-old Bapa Unaw.

When we reached the house of the dead (a small *nipa* hut that has a dark room containing other remains which are not yet brought to the cave), the gongs were struck and we danced. "(It is) like when we have our merrymaking. This is done in order to wake up the dead," said Bapa Unaw.

Before the bones are put inside a cave (as a second burial), the bundle was placed on the ground and the soul was asked whether he agreed or not. According to Bapa Unaw, it is a "yes" if the bundle weighs lightly once you lift it up. Otherwise, it is a "no" and the bundle is kept inside a special house (for the dead) until the soul agrees.

Later, all the participants returned to the house and enjoyed a good meal.

"The *pangutkutan* is an important part of the Mangyan culture because it shows their value for the after life, how they care about their dead. And they are even participatory in the ritual process because they consult the dead before bringing the remains to the cave," said Fr. Edu Gariguez of the Mangyan Mission.

But Bapa Unaw said only about 30 percent of the Hanunuo Mangyans practice *pangutkutan*. "The government tells us that it is dirty and contaminates others."

"*Pero para sa aming matatanda, ang mga patay ay kapwa natin, pareho tayong lupa at tulad ng lupa na nahahawakan, hinahawakan sila sa pangutkutan* (But for us, elders, the dead are like us. We are both soil and like soil that can be held, they are also held during disinterment)," he said.

Fil-Ams to set up Namfrel-type body

From page A1

partisan organization established in 1997 to promote the welfare and well-being of all Filipinos and Filipino-Americans throughout the United States.

Last night's meeting was the last of the President's sessions with Filipino Americans, following the ones she conducted in Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Diego.

The forum, the President's last official function before she leaves for home tomorrow, had every indication of being the grandest. The organizers had rented the 2,500-capacity Davis Symphony Hall on Van Ness Avenue which they managed to fill up only halfway.

FINAL stopover in San Francisco for President Macapagal includes a meeting with California Gov. Gray Davis at the Davies Symphony Hall on Tuesday. AP

Anti-US demo

The President was just warming up with her usual spiel before her Fil-American audience—congressional passage of the absentee voting bill, benefits won for the World War II veterans, domestic policy reform, etc.—when a group of young Filipino-American students in the audience stood up, unfurling banners that read: "US troop-prostitution;" "US troops out of the Philippines" and "Filipinos for global justice, not war."

The police ordered them to sit down but some of them went on shouting, "*Huwag matakot, makibaka, ang tao, ang bayan ngayon na lumalaban.*" (Don't be afraid, struggle, the people and country are now fighting back.)

Ms Macapagal went on with her speech and waited for the protesting students, members of the San Francisco-based League of Filipino Students, to leave the room before commenting: "Thank you to the 5 percent of Filipinos who don't like the United States. The other 95 percent do and I represent them."

Police brought six of the students to the police station. According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Ms Macapagal later asked the police to release them.

Greg Macabenta, national vice chair of Naffaa, clarified that the President's meeting with them did not involve politicking with a view to the absentee Filipino vote in the 2004 elections.

He said it was Naffaa that had sought the meeting to push for other things, not just the absentee vote.

"In fact, she had initially canceled it because she wanted to go home. We wanted to bring to her attention the plight of the 2000 Filipino airport scanners who had been fired because they were not US citizens and equity for the Filipino veterans," Macabenta said.

Two thousand Filipino airport security workers are to lose their jobs in November when a new transportation security administration act takes effect and only Americans citizens will be allowed to work in US airports.

"I laud the initiative of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations and the American Civil Liberties Union for filing a petition for injunction to stop the enforcement of the US requirement for the federalized job of airport screeners. We agree that experience matters in securing US airports and planes," the President said in her speech.

Internal matter but ...

She said that while she considered the case an internal matter of the US government, she believed that qualification, not citizenship, should be the criteria used in hiring them.

She said the Philippine ambassador to the United States, Alberto del Rosario, would convey her sentiments to the appropriate US officials.

San Franciso Mayor Willy Brown presented the President with the symbolic key to this famous city by the bay. He said the President's visit here honored not only the Fil-Americans but the whole city.

Calauan church reconsecrated after desecration by killers

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAUAN, Laguna—San Pablo Bishop Francisco C. San Diego led the concelebrated Mass and re-consecration of the San Isidro Labrador church here Tuesday night hours after Tineg, Abra Mayor Clarence Benwaren was gunned down inside the church

"This church is a house of prayer and worship, a house of God and a holy place," said San Diego, who condemned in strongest terms the "sacrilegious and senseless murder of a helpless victim inside the church."

Parish priest Seldon Coronado said the bishop sprinkled holy water and incensed inside and outside the church.

To complete the church's sacred restoration, San Diego directed the parish priest to lead the faithful in a procession for three nights starting today.

A teacher of the Catholic school Liceo de Calauan and resident of this town said "we could not believe that the criminal act was committed inside the church and at a time when we were at prayer for peace." She said the brutal murder inside the church was the first in the history of the town.

Faculty and students of the Liceo de Calauan were gathered at the school grounds next to the church on Tuesday morning and were ending their prayer rally for peace when the assassin's gun was fired. The prayer for peace rally was held to officially close the observance of the October Holy Rosary devotion.

Abra mayor's kin pin murder on vice mayor

From page A1

his murder)," Crisologo said.

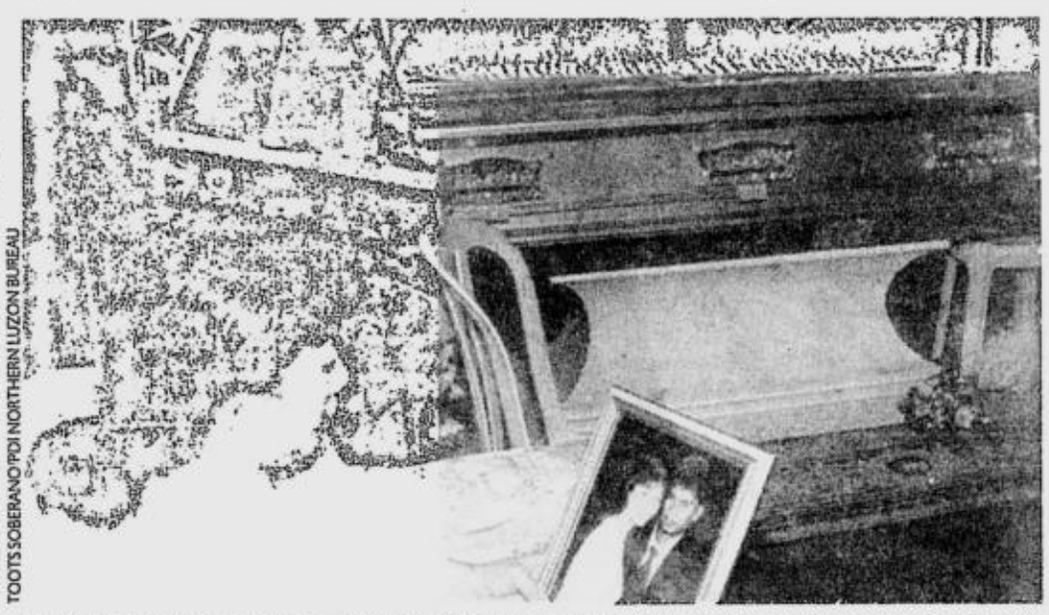
In Manila, Malacañang condemned the assassination. "What makes it worse is that it's a political killing," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Interior Secretary Lina had taken special interest in the case "because being a former mayor, he knows the dangers of politics."

Crisologo said his feud with Benwaren, his former political ally, was limited to the performance of his public duties and not on a personal level. Crisologo noted that he and Benwaren were relatives and belonged to the same tribe.

Benwaren had accused Crisologo of involvement in the grenade-throwing incident in his house here in February, in the failed ambush attempt against him and his group on July 12, and the Sept. 12 burning of his inn in Barangay Alaoa, Tineg.

Crisologo denied these, saying the supposed ambush attempts on Benwaren were staged. "Anything that happens to them, they always put the blame on me," he said.



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BEREAVED widow of Tineg, Abra Mayor Clarence Bengwaren, Soledad, keeps vigil by his side at the family ancestral home in upper Brookside, Baguio City.

Mayor's suspension

Crisologo, through some Tineg municipal employees, initiated two administrative cases against Benwaren which resulted in the mayor's suspension in November 2001 and September 2002. The suspension orders were recommended by the Abra provincial board and signed by Gov. Vicente Valera.

The elder Benwaren said Crisologo was "overeager" to become mayor. He also claimed that Crisologo had "close association" with the New People's Army operating in their town.

Crisologo denied these allegations, saying the Benwarens, who had been in power for three decades now, maintain a private army and a cache of high-powered firearms.

The vice mayor said his rift with Benwaren started after the 2001 elections when he started questioning the mayor on how the town's funds were spent.

"They had been in power for so long but no development can be seen in the town despite the millions of pesos given to our town," Crisologo said. Tineg, the most remote town of Abra, is 87 km from the capital town of Bangued and 493 km north of Manila.

In Baguio City, Benwaren's wife, Soledad, said the mayor was set to file a criminal case against Crisologo for withdrawing P2.5 million of the municipal's money while Benwaren was serving his suspension early this month. Benwaren was also contesting the suspension order imposed on him, she said.

Soledad, an employee of the National Police Commission, said her husband had told her about the charges that he and his lawyer were preparing against Crisologo.

Benwaren's remains were brought under heavy guard to Soledad's house in Barangay Brookside in Baguio on Wednesday.

The mayor's remains will be taken to Bangued today.

No premonition

Soledad said her husband had no premonition of his death. They were in Baguio on Sunday and went to Calauan, Laguna, on Monday to stand as wedding sponsors of an Abra resident. Soledad said Benwaren had only one close aide near him when he was attacked.

Chief Supt. Victor Luga, Cordillera police director, said he appealed to Benwaren's father not to retaliate against the family's political enemies.

Luga said the police were also investigating reports that the gunman, Edberto Amoncio, was seen in Baguio City a few weeks before Benwaren was gunned down. Amoncio was killed after a firefight with policemen also on Tuesday.

Amoncio's presence in Baguio could be a part of "surveillance operation" against Benwaren, whose family has a house in the city, Luga said.

He said he had sent two teams from the regional police's mobile group to augment the Abra policemen who would secure Benwaren's wake.

"Surely, different Abra mayors will be there (at the wake), so we will make sure that they will all be safe," he said.

Luga said that the police had yet to identify the mastermind behind Benwaren's murder.

"We are helping the Southern Tagalog police office in tracing the movement of the suspects. We have traced the movement of the slain hit man (Amoncio). We are tracing possible movements of the other suspects in the (Cordillera)," he said.

The Cordillera police are still looking for the five companions of Amoncio who had eluded Calauan policemen on Tuesday.

The National Bureau of Investigation has joined the inquiry into the killing of the mayor. NBI officer-in-charge Lolito Utitco yesterday sent a team of investigators to Laguna to find out the identity of the brains behind the murder.

The team of six investigators from the NBI-National Capital Region Unit will try to grill Cernan Carandang-Manalang, 22, alleged driver of the suspect's vehicle, a Hyundai van (with plate number XER-831). Manalang of Barangay Paciano Rizal in Bay, Laguna, is in police custody. *Reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Frank Cimatu and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Dona Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila*

28 Abus captured in Jolo, says Army

From page A1

Brigade based in Jolo, said soldiers raided an Abu Sayyaf camp on Mt. Daho Tuesday and caught up with the bandits and their allies from a breakaway rebel group of the Moro National Liberation Front in Talipao town's Burox village.

"We have captured at least 28," Aleo said. "Troops are still searching for the other rebels holed up in Mt. Daho."

He said the captured bandits were part of the group led by Radulan Sahiron, a one-armed Abu Sayyaf leader holding four female Jehovah's Witnesses and three Indonesian tugboat crewmen.

Sahiron's forces, under pressure from pursuing troops, have split into four groups and dispersed toward different parts of Jolo, Aleo added.

The Army commander said the bandits who were caught by surprise did not put up a fight. They were brought to the Marine headquarters in Jolo for interrogation.

On Monday, Army intelligence agents arrested Bhala Bada, an alleged Abu Sayyaf intelligence officer. According to officials, Bada admitted he was among a group of gunmen who abducted four Indonesian tugboat crewmen off Jolo island on June 17. The captives were taken to the hinterlands of Jolo's Luuk town where one of the Indonesians managed to escape.

The kidnappers are reportedly demanding P15 million for their three Indonesian hostages. Neither Indonesia nor the Singaporean employer of the Indonesian sailors was willing to pay the ransom, officials said.

Bada told investigators that the three Indonesians had been turned over to Sahiron's group, officials said.

Sahiron's group is also holding four Filipino women belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses. They were abducted in August while selling cosmetic products in Patikul.

Not Abu Sayyaf

Zamboanga City Vice Mayor Fabian said Landingin had told him that his daughter-in-law and her companions were definitely not members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Landingin's daughter-in-law, Carlyn Landingin, and three others were on board a red Toyota Corolla car on their way to Paraiso Subdivision in Barangay Tumaga on Saturday evening when they were chased by policemen on board a Kia van.

The policemen fired at the car, wounding two of the youths. Zulphicar Matli, driver of the car, was wounded in the back, while Khalid Nandu was hit in the neck.

Carlyn Landingin and a certain Al-Ryan were not hurt even as the car crashed into a concrete fence.

The four youths and a young bystander were then arrested and taken in for questioning at the Southcom headquarters. All five were subsequently released.

Nandu's father is also connected with the DTI while his mother is with the Civil Service Commission.

The elder Landingin has filed a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights against some members of the Zamboanga City police intelligence division. *Reports from Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP and AFP*

Nat'l Museum to declare 'Parisian' a nat'l treasure

From page A1

ernment employees, exists.

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER, the public relations manager of Christie's Hong Kong yesterday clarified the total amount that the GSIS paid for the painting.

"I would like to clarify that the sold price of HK$6,674,100 (about P46 million) includes the buyer's premium," Victoria Cheung wrote.

"In the case of the (Luna) painting, the hammer price is HK$6 million, and the actual purchase price including the premium is HK$6,674,100."

Presidential decree

The convening of the panel appears to be in belated compliance with a 28-year-old decree prohibiting the export and sale of cultural treasures.

Presidential Decree No. 374 requires the National Museum to classify cultural treasures, including those that are owned by private individuals, so that these will not be taken out of the country and sold. It also requires that private collections be registered with the National Museum.

Salcedo said that since President Ferdinand Marcos issued the decree on Jan. 10, 1974, only one panel was ever formed, and it served to authenticate certain cultural pieces, not classify them.

Salcedo said the National Museum has a room filled with more than a hundred other paintings of Luna which were acquired by Far East Bank from the collections of the Nakpil clan.

The museum came under fire for its failure to intervene in the sale of the painting.

Prior to the auction, the painting was not registered with the museum and was exported illegally after its forwarders declared it as being shipped only "for exhibition" purposes.

The National Museum asked Christie's to return it to the country so that it could be given the proper export permit. The permit was given on the spot when the painting arrived in the airport last Friday night.

No money

Salcedo said the National Museum did not even attempt to buy "Parisian Life" from its private owners because it did not have the money. The museum's current budget has been reduced by 44 percent, he said.

PD 374 provides that the government should be given the first option to buy a cultural piece for sale. It is given three months to negotiate the sale.

"(But) we did not (attempt to buy the painting) because we were not in a position to buy anyway," Salcedo said.

Salcedo said the painting may be declared a national cultural treasure even though it is already owned by the GSIS.

"Then we can have the painting on loan to the museum," Salcedo said in a phone interview.

But Garcia had already said that the painting would be the "flagship" acquisition of the GSIS Museum off Roxas Boulevard. He said the painting would be open to public viewing free of charge.

A special room in the museum is being prepared as the permanent home of the painting, which arrives from Hong Kong next week.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Davao: 3 judo golds

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY-- Davao City reasserted its supremacy in judo, winning three more gold medals in the event to wrest the leadership yesterday in the Second Mindanao Friendship Games at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex here.

The judokas from the land of exotic durian crowned themselves as overall champions in the discipline after snaring 13 out of the total 16 gold medals at stake.

Their unparalleled feat catapulted Davao City on top of the heap with a 26-11-8, gold-silver-bronze medal count, a gold up on second-running Iligan City, which made a killing in swimming.

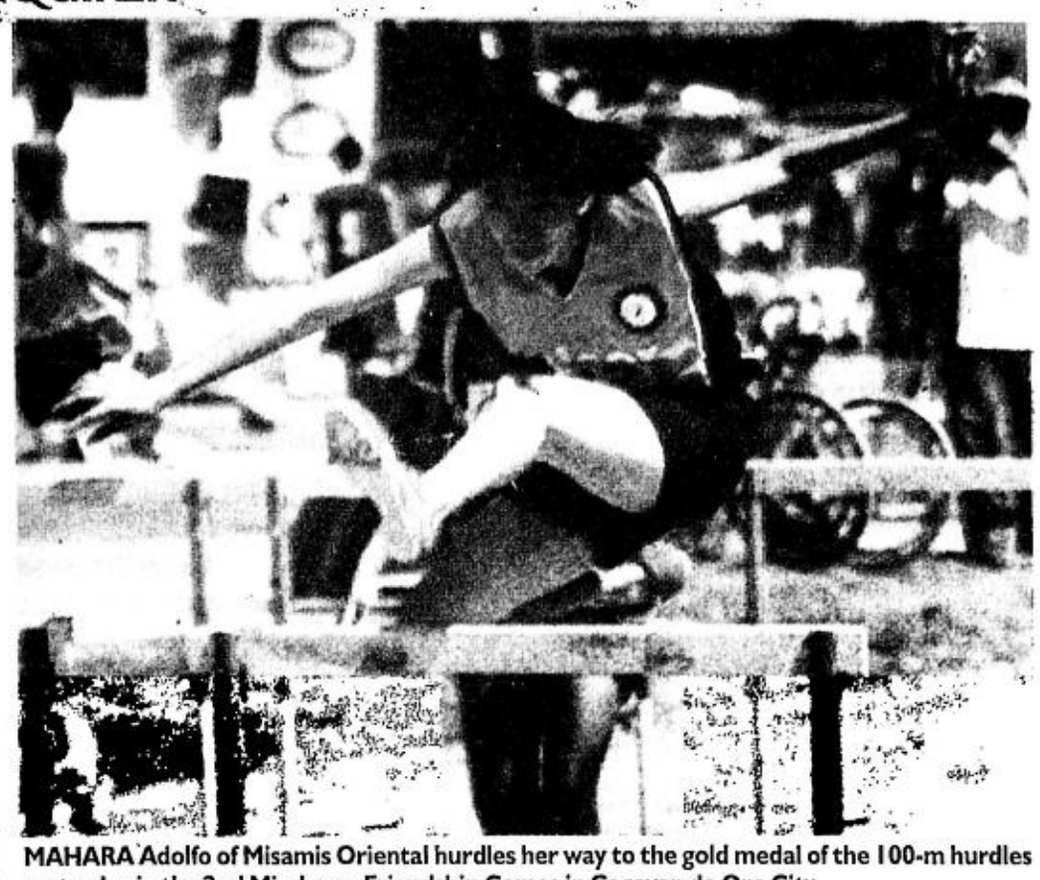
Iligan City's tankers swam for 22 gold medals that increased its haul to 25-8-18. In far third was Misamis Oriental (14-14-19) while the hosts had eight golds, 12 silvers and 12 bronzes.

Genevie Natinga, Monique Bacolod and Nikko Cao Hok combined for Iligan with 19 golds, nearly all of them done in record-breaking fashion.

Natinga had nine golds coming from the women's 100-m freestyle, 50-m freestyle, 200-m individual medley, 50-m butterfly, 200-m breaststroke, 400-m freestyle relay, 200-m butterfly and 400-m medley relay.

Bacolod and Cao Hok delivered six and five gold medals, respectively, with Bacolod ripping all the previous marks in the events that she had won except for the women's 400-m freestyle relay.

Davao City also struck six gold medals in athletics with upcoming long-distance runner Roy Ocon stringing up two.



MAHARA Adolfo of Misamis Oriental hurdles her way to the gold medal of the 100-m hurdles yesterday in the 2nd Mindanao Friendship Games in Cagayan de Oro City.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Go firm on RP hosting Asian athletics

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BANGKOK–Although the Philippines' early preparation to host the 2003 Asian Championships is already in place, Japan and two others yesterday expressed their interest to stage the event.

But Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, said he remained firm on his decision to bring the prestigious event to the country for the third time.

The Philippines already paid the $20,000 bond to the Asian Amateur Athletics Association, but it has to come up with some P30 million to accommodate the 3,000 or so athletes and officials who are expected to come over.

China and Thailand have also approached the athletics chief during their meetings here and tried to convince Go to give up the hosting.

"We are still trying to find ways how we can get the support of the government and the private sector and comeup with the money," said Go, who is the vice president of the AAAA.

The country hosted the event this year after successfully staging the money-rich Asian Grand Prix last May.

Go is here to give moral support to the five-man RP team honing its skills in the Asian Junior championships participated in by 37 countries, including powerhouse China, Korea and Japan.

Long distance runner Rosel Espinas surrendered anew Tuesday night when she bowed to her taller, stronger foes in the girls 1,500m.

She placed 11th with a time of five minutes, 4.42 sec. Korea's Yo Yeon Noh took the gold with a clocking of 4:27.15.

"It's still a long way to go for our athletes to achieve what our neighbors have achieved," said Go. "But what is important is that we are trying to keep up with them despite our many disadvantages including financial support."

Other athletes trying to corner slots in the 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games are Julie Rose Forbes in hurdles, Ralph Waldy Soguilon in sprints, Maricel Sibog in long jump and triple jump and Macjohn Salanawon in middle distance.

Thunderbird, Univet parade 'cock' heroes

MASS-based cockers and gamefowl breeders all over the country will get the rare chance to know more about their respective cocking heroes as Thunderbird Power Feeds & Univet Agricultural Products, Inc. present a parade of top cocking personalities in the Thunderbird breeder of the day portion over dzRH 666 AM radio at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Lawyer Ram Lopez will talk tomorrow about his success in breeding and his partnerships with top American roostermen Bobby Jones, Chuck Berry and Newton Wade. Ricoy Palmares of Iloilo will be featured on Nov. 6, Lancey de la Torre on Nov. 8, former La Carlota City Mayor Juancho Aguirre on Nov. 13 and ex-Mayor Manny Dalipe of Zamboanga on Nov. 15.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Antonio Huelva and Laarni Cunanan beat their foes to bag their respective men's and ladies titles in the Gold Eagle Beer 4th National Invitation Open duckpin bowling championships in San Fernando, La Union. Also today in 1992, Tiger Ari scored a majority decision over Korean Joong Yeum to retain his Orient Pacific Boxing Federation junior lightweight title at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

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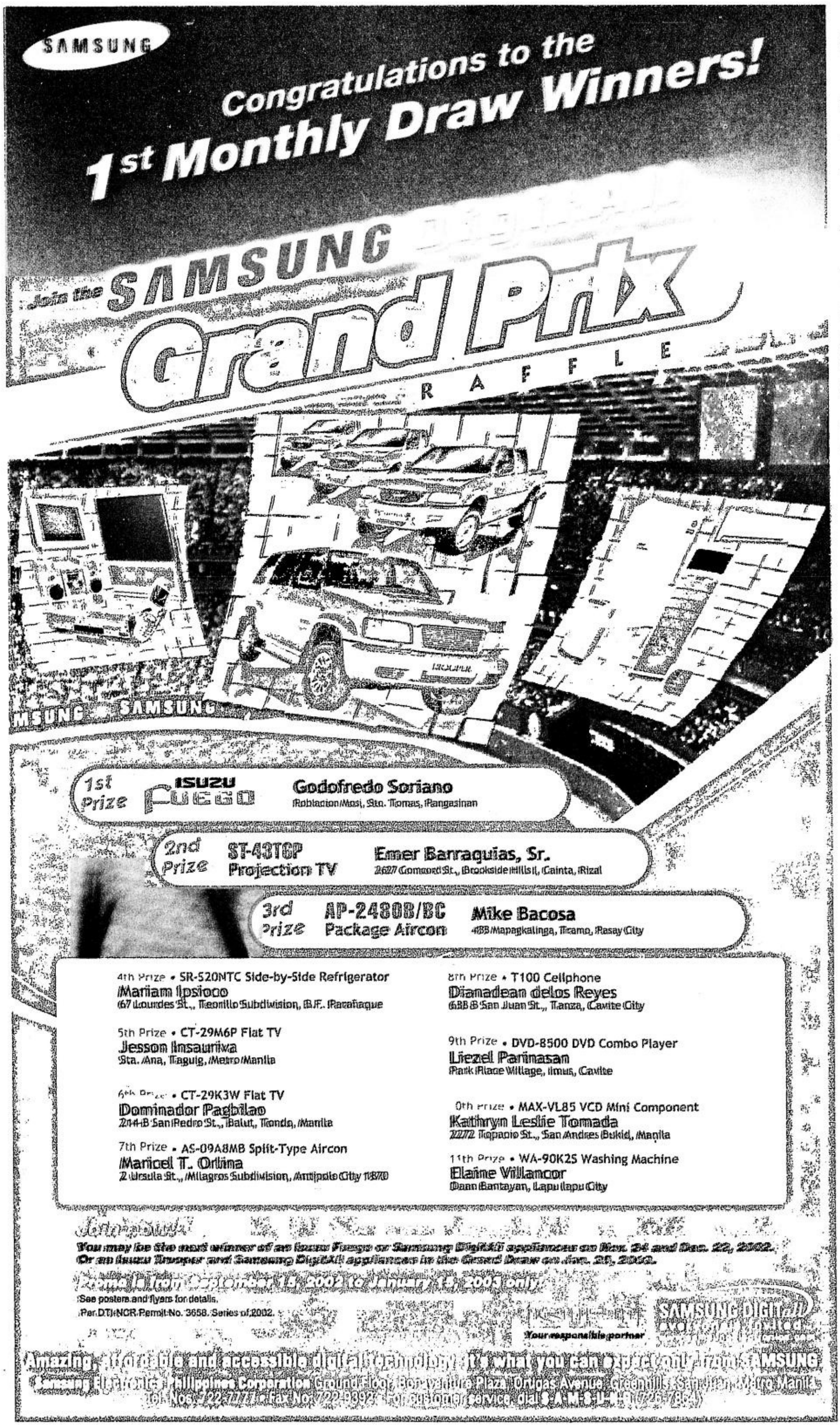

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NBA OPENER

Magic zap 76ers; Spurs trip Lakers

ORLANDO, Florida—Tracy McGrady had 31 points and Grant Hill added 18 points, seven assists and six rebounds in his first game in nearly a year as the Orlando Magic opened the NBA season with a 95-88 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday.

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The Magic did get some bad news on the injury front when Horace Grant left the game with a sore left knee at halftime.

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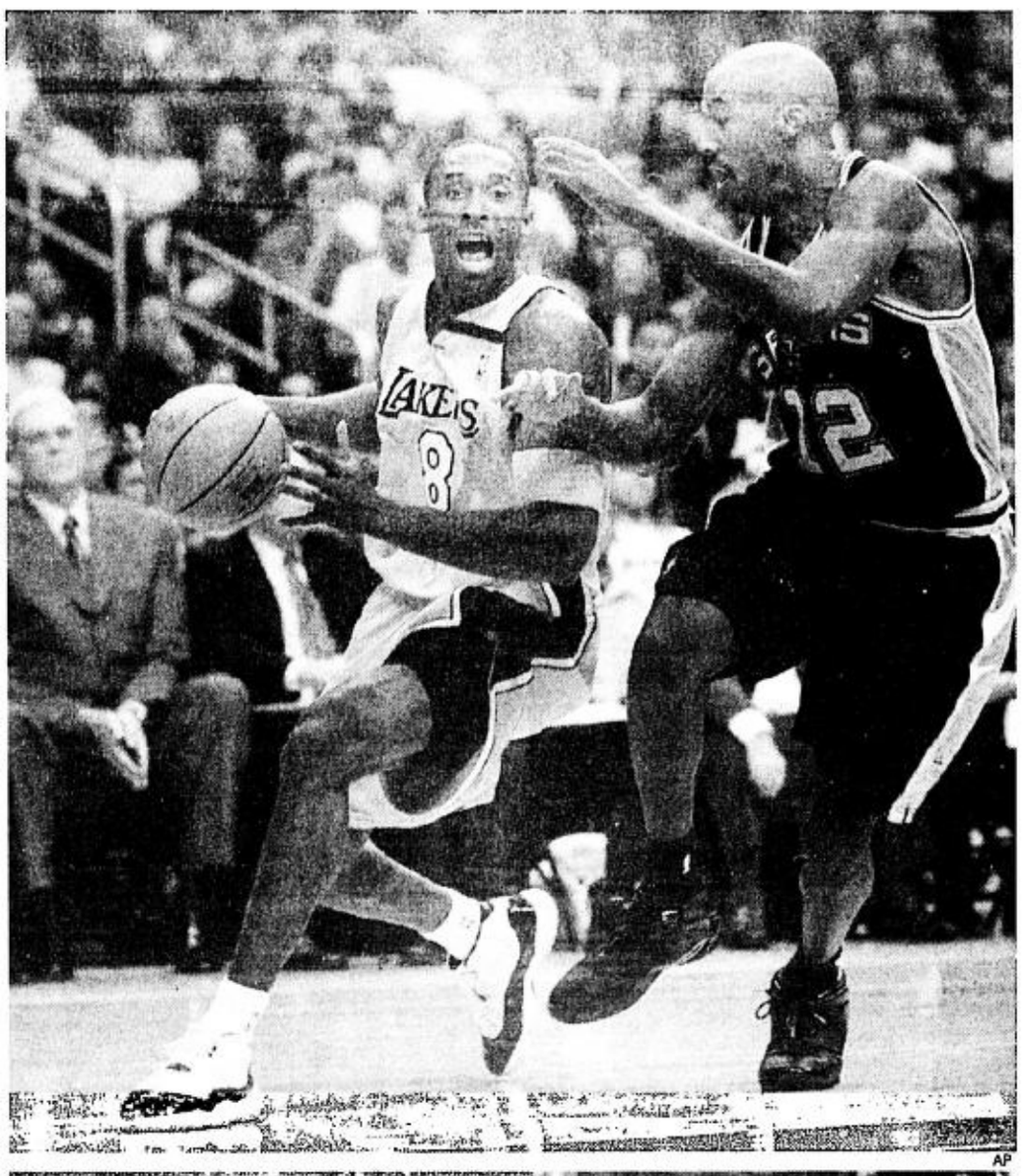

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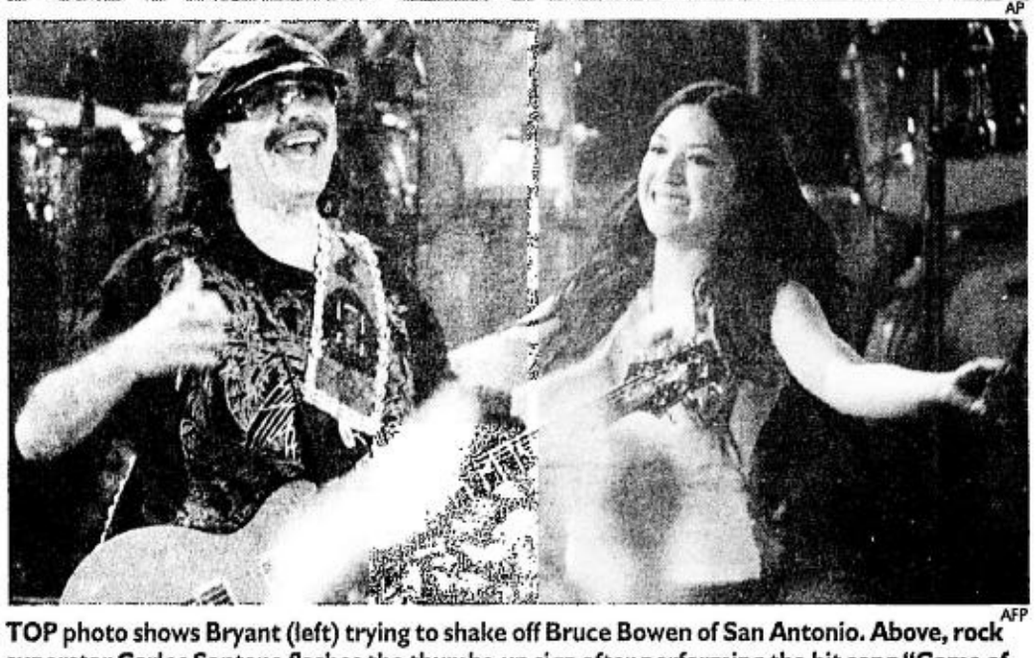

AFP

TOP photo shows Bryant (left) trying to shake off Bruce Bowen of San Antonio. Above, rock superstar Carlos Santana flashes the thumbs-up sign after performing the hit song "Game of Love" with Michelle Branch before the start of the Lakers-Spurs game.

Honest MJ non-starter for first time

By Joseph White
AP Sportswriter

WASHINGTON—At least Michael Jordan was being honest.

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Jordan isn't sure how he'll feel as he begins a season as a non-starter for the first time in his career. He'll find out Wednesday, when the Wizards open on the road against the Toronto Raptors.

"I can't honestly say how I'm going to react," Jordan said Tuesday. "It depends on how the guys in front of me react."

Coach Doug Collins said he's sticking with his plan to play Jordan about 25 minutes per game, a figure that will go up after the All-Star break if Jordan hasn't had a physical setback. In tight games, Collins will backload Jordan so that he's on the court for the game-defining moments in the fourth quarter.

"I can't fall into that trap of getting the minutes up, and all of a sudden his knee swelling," Collins said. "We've got to build with him. We can't have him being broken down."

Jordan acknowledged that every time he and Collins discussed limiting his minutes last season, it never worked because he didn't want to leave the court. He reiterated, however, that it will be easier for him to take a seat this season because the rest of the team is better.

Hearn widow gets ring as LA celebrates wins

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Stu Lantz, Hearn's longtime broadcast partner, served as master of ceremonies with NBA Commissioner David Stern presenting the rings.

Following the presentation of the rings, entertainer Randy Newman, seated behind a piano at midcourt, sang, "I Love LA," to the delight of the fans.

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Record 67 int'l players in NBA

NEW YORK—A record 67 international players are on NBA rosters for the start of the season, led by the Dallas Mavericks with five.

The league said Tuesday the players–active and injured–were from 35 countries and territories. There were international players on 27 of the 29 teams.

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There are a record nine players from Yugoslavia, four from Croatia, three from Argentina, China and Slovenia and two from Spain and Greece. There are a record eight players from Latin America.

For the first time, there is a player from Poland (Cezary Trybanski) and Scotland (Robert Archibald), both with Memphis.

Last season, there were 52 international players on opening day rosters. In the 1984-85 season there were 10. *AP*

Angels fans rejoice with Disney parade

By Chelsea J. Carter
AP Writer

ANAHEIM, California—With Jackie Autry riding alongside Minnie Mouse, tens of thousands of Angels fans cheered the team's first World Series championship on at a Disneyland parade and later at a huge rally at Edison Field.

"For all the Angels fans who have been here from the beginning, and all the Angels we had above, this championship is for you," manager Mike Scioscia said at Tuesday's rally.

Two hours earlier, Scioscia held the World Series trophy aloft at Disneyland, which was awash in Angels red, with shirts, hats and faces painted with halos. Fans there had paid as much as $45 for a ticket to the park, where the parade was held along Main Street.

Jackie Autry is the widow of Gene Autry, who formed the expansion team in 1961. The Walt Disney Co. bought the Angels after Gene Autry died in 1998.

The hard-luck team had never won a playoff series before beating the New York Yankees earlier this month in an American League division series. They then beat the Minnesota Twins to win the American League pennant and capped it off by winning the World Series over the San Francisco Giants in seven games.

A second parade began at Arrowhead Pond, home of the NHL's Mighty Ducks, and ended with a rally at Edison Field, home of the Angels.

"I waited 10 years for something like this," Angels veteran Tim Salmon told the screaming crowd. "But I know you guys have been waiting a lot longer. This is yours."

Added Angels relief pitcher Troy Percival: "We want to do this every year."

Anaheim city officials estimated that 100,000 people attended the parade and rally in a parking lot at Edison Field. No major incidents were reported, but several people were arrested for darting in and out of traffic, police said.

The parade and rally at Edison Field were free. However, fans had to pay an admission charge at Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure park. Disney has come under fire for charging fans who wanted to attend the events.

John McClintock, a spokesman for the Disneyland Resort, said there could have been severe overcrowding and other logistical problems if the parks had been opened free.

Venus, Serena parents divorce

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—The parents of Venus and Serena Williams completed their divorce Tuesday.

The divorce won't affect the advisory roles Richard and Oracene Williams play in their daughters' tennis careers, said Raymone Bain, a publicist for Oracene and Serena Williams.

The Williamses married in 1980 and separated about 18 months ago, Bain said.

R. WILLIAMS

"I was very honest with our children that a reconciliation would not happen," Oracene Williams said in a statement. "They've accepted our divorce and love us, as we both love them. Richard and I will continue to work together for the good of our girls, and I truly wish him well."

Richard Williams declined to comment.

The settlement was a no-fault divorce, Bain said, but financial terms were kept private. The case was filed in state circuit court.

The sisters and their parents will continue to live in Palm Beach Gardens, Bain said.

Richard Williams began grooming his daughters as preschoolers to become tennis stars and is still their coach. *AP*

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Vietnam has generally ranked fifth or sixth in previous SEA Games.

The 32 events will be track and field, swimming, badminton, basketball, volleyball, canoeing, rowing, chess, cycling, diving, soccer, gymnastics, body building, handball, karate, taekwondo, judo, wrestling, shuttlecock kicking, shooting, wushu, silat, sapak takraw, table tennis, tennis, boxing, billiards, bow shooting, weight lifting, fencing, pateque and traditional boating, the newspaper said. *AP*

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The Philippine's newest sports heroine will be joined in the technical sessions by other women sports icons like Bong Coo-Garcia (from bowling to business), Lydia de Vega Mercado (from athletics to politics) and Dyan Castillejo (from tennis to media) who have also confirmed their participation.

Coincidentally, Mikee's father-in-law Sen. Robert Jaworski will be one of the resource speakers at the Womensports Congress.

Conference Director PSC Commissioner Cynthia L. Carrion is bent on making the event not only a successful 1st Women Congress but also a star-studded one saying, "we have to showcase the greatness of the Filipina." Participation is on a first-come-first-served basis.

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NBA OPENER

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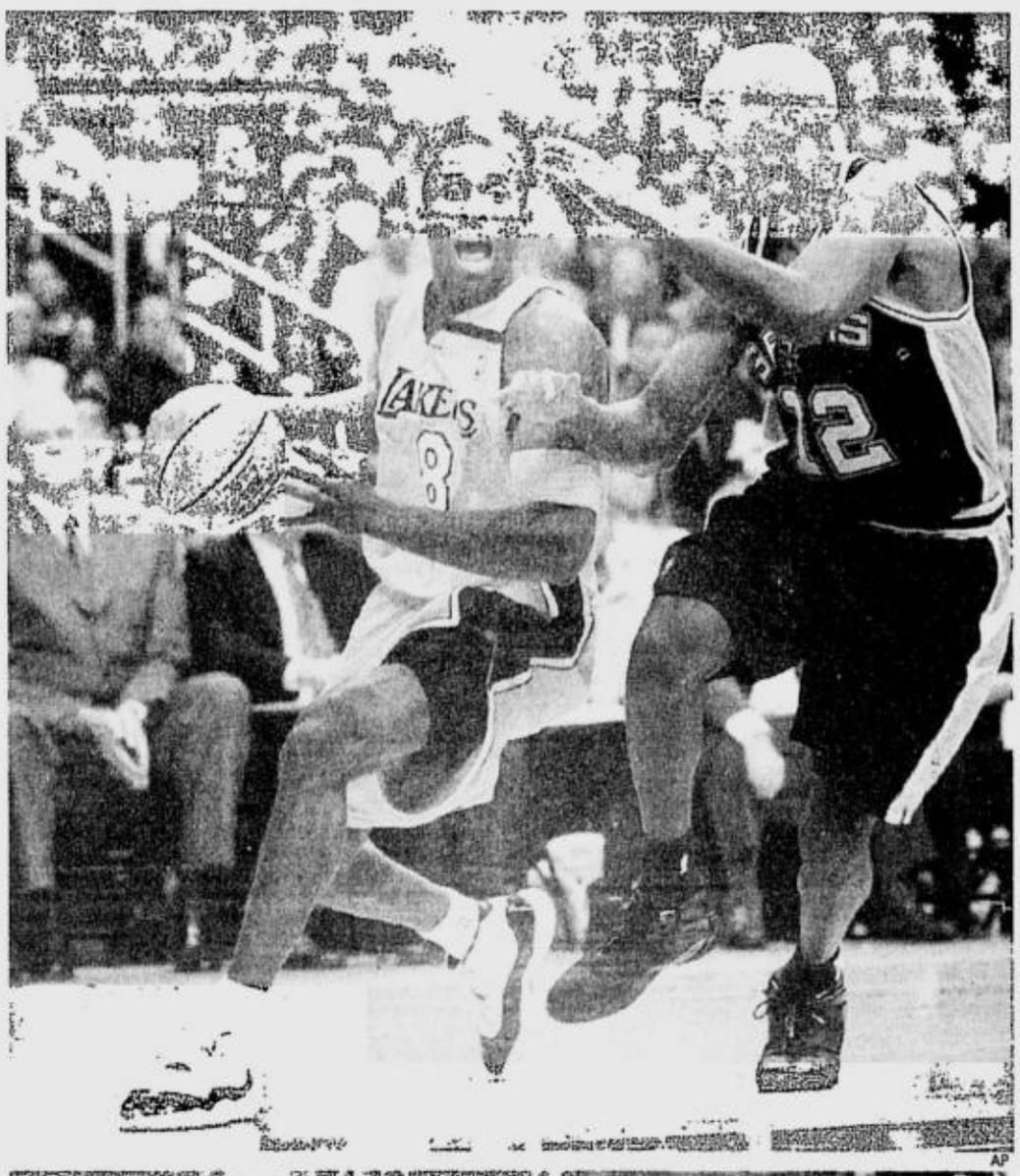

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We in Solar Entertainment Corporation are proud to announce the launch of the first 24-hour sports channel tailor-made for Filipinos.

The Solar Sports Network will devote itself to sports that are closest to the hearts of Filipinos like basketball, boxing, billiards, tennis and golf. And the centerpiece of our programming will be no less than the greatest sports show on earth - the National Basketball Association.

Solar's landmark agreement with the NBA ushers in a new era in the Philippines - with more hours of NBA action than anywhere else in Asia. I am also proud to announce that the NBA has granted us the exclusive rights to telecast the NBA Conference Finals - both East and West - and the NBA Finals in the Philippines.

To date, Solar has allied itself with over 200 cable operators including SkyCable and HomeCable to bring the Solar Sports Network to Filipino sports fans nationwide.

On behalf of Solar Entertainment Corporation, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our friends in the business community and in the cable television family for their support and encouragement.

Maraming salamat po.

William Y. Tieng
President
Solar Entertainment Corporation

The National Basketball Association (NBA) congratulates Solar Entertainment Corporation on the launch of the Solar Sports Network.

They are the industry leaders who always strive to give their viewers the very best broadcast options.

We are honored to be partners with them.

David J. Stern
Commissioner
National Basketball Association

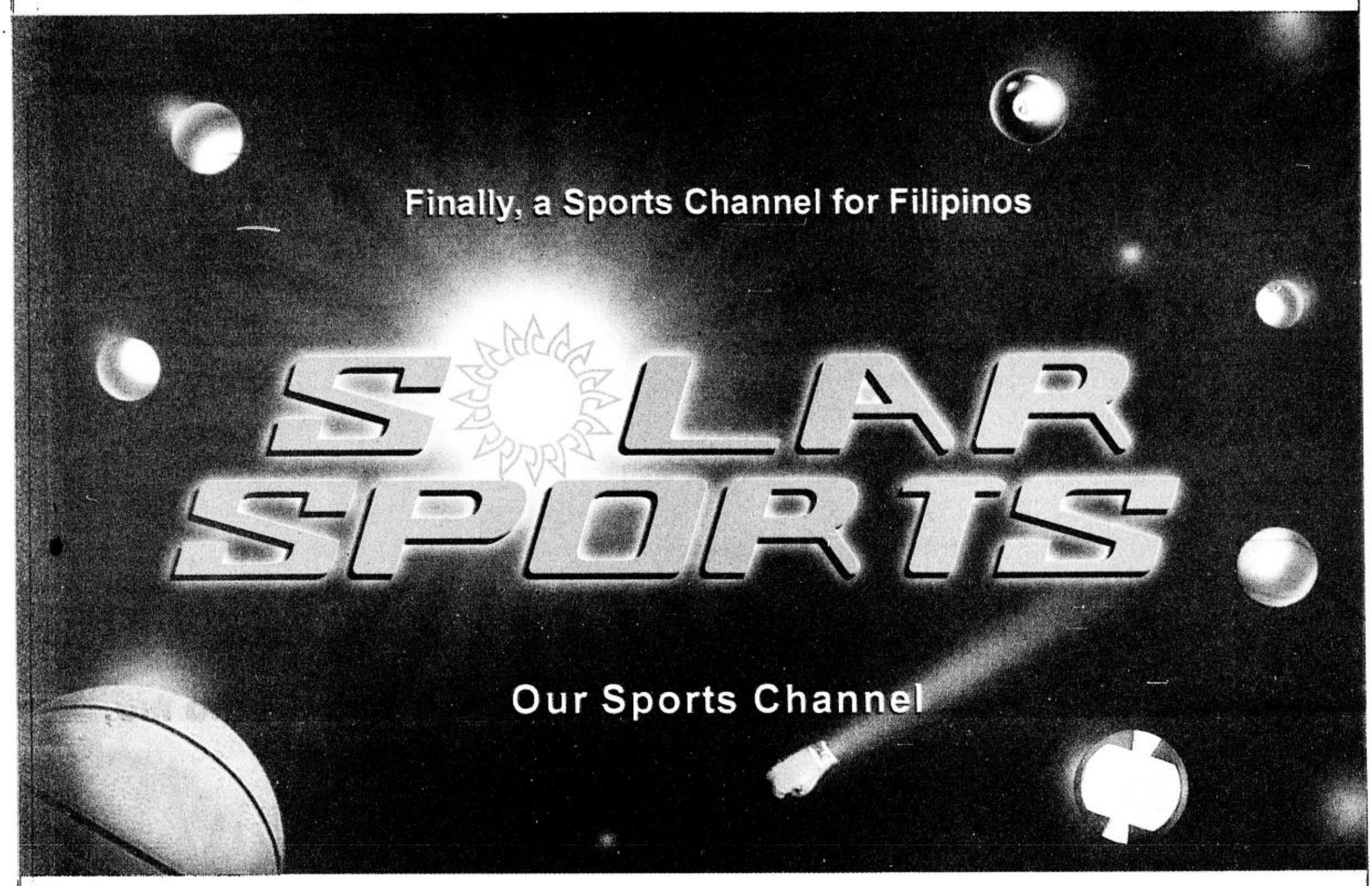
I would like to congratulate Solar Entertainment Corporation on the launch of the Solar Sports Network, the first 24-hour Filipino sports channel on television.

As we all know, Filipinos love sports with a passion, and I am certain that millions of Filipino sports fans will be elated by Solar Sports Network's entry into the Philippine broadcasting industry. Not only will the Solar Sports Network present daily "live" games of the National Basketball Association (NBA), but it will also feature the sports that are closest to the Filipino heart.

We share the optimism of Solar Entertainment Corporation, headed by its Chairman Wilson Tieng and President William Tieng, for even greater success in their broadcasting ventures in the years ahead as it increases its impact on a rapidly growing audience.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations! Thank you.

Manuel V. Pangilinan
President
Philippine Long Distance Company



It is heart-warming to know that a major corporation like Solar Entertainment has seen fit to devote a 24-hour television channel wholly to the endeavor of sports.

Such a move clearly underscores Solar's recognition of the important role that sports plays in society. Sports builds character and instills positive values, while media, particularly television, has become one of the greatest influences on society. Therefore, having a television channel exclusively airing sports can only augur well for sports development in this country.

It is my fervent hope that the Solar Sports Network succeeds in its mission to bring sports and its ideals to every household in the Philippines.

I anticipate that the Solar Sports network will contribute greatly to the citizenry's interest and participation in sports. I salute them for such an undertaking and wish them the best of luck.

Eric R. Buhain
Chairman
Philippine Sports Commission

Congratulations to Solar Entertainment for successfully launching the Solar Sports Network - a channel exclusively made with the Filipino sports fan in mind.

I firmly believe that the Solar Sports Network will soon become a favorite among our SKYCable subscribers. Having the National Basketball Association (NBA) is a major attraction. But having the NBA games aired "live" and everyday is simply mind-boggling and undeniably a feast for die-hard NBA fans. Add to that other sports events that Filipinos love - like billiards, boxing, tennis, golf, etc. - and Solar Sports Network will surely be a run-away winner!

It is therefore with open arms that I welcome Solar Sports Network as part of the SKYCable line-up. This latest addition completes the sports programming line-up of SKYCable, and is in line with our thrust to give our subscribers the best range of quality programs that no other cable operator can match.

Accolades to Solar Entertainment Corporation for taking this unprecedented step in Philippine sports programming. We are looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership. Thank you.

Jose Xavier B. Gonzales
Director
SKYVision

My heartfelt congratulations to the men and women behind the successful launching of the Solar Sports Network, in particular to Messrs. Wilson and William Tieng, Chairman and President of Solar Entertainment Corporation, respectively.

A few years ago, the prospects for a television entity such as a Filipino sports channel seemed dim and commercially unviable. There was a dearth of available sports shows that would entice Filipinos to continuously patronize such a TV channel. The endeavor appeared to be too risky and TV audiences appeared to be too fickle.

However, as Solar Entertainment has successfully negotiated an unprecedented agreement with the National Basketball Association - one that brings "live" NBA games daily to the Philippines for the next four years - such an endeavor now appears to be very viable and potentially very rewarding. Coupled with other sports that are close to the Filipino heart, Solar Sports Network's programming now seems to be an attractive option on cable television.

Solar clearly occupies a unique niche in the broadcasting landscape from where they can effectively reach the so-called "sports market" to the benefit of TV viewers and advertisers alike.

I congratulate Solar Entertainment for its foresight and its faith in the Filipino sports fan. Good luck to all of you!

Engr. Elpidio M. Paras
Chairman
Philippine Cable Television Association, Inc.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Solar Entertainment Corporation for putting together what is surely every Filipino sports fans' dream - a 24-hour sports cable that is devoted to the sports that Filipinos love.

I believe the Solar sports Network will present an attractive alternative to the current fare that is available on cable television. Its central focus is the NBA, a sports product which has, year in and year out, served as a fascination to TV viewers and a sure-fire bet for advertisers, especially when the championship come around.

The most impressive thing about the Solar Sports Network is that - through an unprecedented agreement with the NBA - it will be the exclusive source for the NBA Conference Finals and NBA Finals on cable television. Through foresight and determination, Solar Sports has successfully positioned itself as a major player and must-see programming in the sports entertainment segment of cable TV.

Once again, congratulations to Solar Entertainment Corporation!

Estrellita Juliano-Tamano
Chairman
Federation of International Cable TV Associations of the Philippines, Inc.

Introducing, the only 24-hour sports channel that is tailor-made for the Filipino. Forget those foreign sports like rugby, cricket, skiing, snooker and bob-sledding. Switch to Solar Sports for the sports that Filipinos love to watch!

Ask your cable operator about Solar Sports today and watch NBA from Solar Sports on [illegible]

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Now you can enjoy 6 hours of NBA on cable everyday! Get your DAILY dose of NBA Games Live for the entire season - all the way up to the EXCLUSIVE coverage of the NBA Conference Finals & NBA Season Finals - only on Solar Sports. Not enough? Here's more! On-site coverage of the NBA All-Star Weekend & NBA Finals. Plus other great NBA programs: NBA Action, NBA Jam, NBA Greatest Games, NBA highlights and other NBA specials.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP beats Belgium; Mark stars

BLED, Slovenia–GM-candidate Mark Paragua provided the clincher as the Philippines bested Belgium, 2.5-1.5, in the fifth round yesterday of the 35th Chess Olympiad.

The 18-year-old Paragua, tasked to man Board 2 as GMs Eugene Torre and Bong Villamayor rested, beat IM Ekrem Cekro in 38 moves of a King's Indian defense, giving the Filipinos a 10-point total and a share of 27th to 35th places in the biennial meet.

Joey Antonio manned the top board and halved the point with fellow grandmaster Luc Winants in 20 moves of a Ruy Lopez. Veteran Petronio Roca and first timer Nelson Mariano II also drew with IM Mark Dutreeuw and IM Geert Vanderstricht, respectively.

Powerhouse Russia whipped Georgia, 3-1, to raise its total to 13 points and share top spot with Poland and Cuba.

Poland trounced Cuba, 3-1, while Armenia routed Yugoslavia, 3.5-0.5.

The Philippines faces Denmark in the fifth round on Wednesday.

The Filipinas bowed to the 15th seeded Netherlands squad, 2.5-0.5, and, with six points, plummeted to 46th in the women's division being paced by China and the United States with 10 points each.

Women GM Candidate Arianne Caoili yielded to Pen Zhaoquin, a former Chinese standout, in 27 moves of a King's Indian defense while Sheerie Joy Lomibao bowed to Desiree Hamelink.

Woman IM Beverly Mendoza averted a shutout for the Philippines when she drew with Tea Bosboom-Lanchava.

The Filipinas are expected to climb in the standings as they are slated to meet the squad from the International Physically Challenged Association Wednesday. *Roy Luarca*

FOUR DIGIT
9 2 0 8
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
2 2 1

MEGALOTTO 6/45
1 4 17 18 28 30

Ginebra does another escape act vs Sta. Lucia

GAMES SUNDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola
5:45 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska

ANTIPOLO—Barangay Ginebra drew splendid performances from Mark Caguioa, Eric Menk and Bal David to subdue Sta. Lucia Realty, 74-70, last night in the Selecta All-Filipino Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Caguioa fired 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Kings to their second straight win after dropping their first game.

He got plenty of help from Menk, who added 14 points and 14 rebounds, and David, who scored 13, including four straight freethrows that sealed the outcome.

Talk N Text rewarded American coach Paul Woolpert with his first victory in the PBA by repulsing FedEx, 69-64, in the second game. It was Talk N Text's first win in two outings while FedEx dropped its second straight game.

NGAP, Capitol listing centers for Uratex golf

REGISTRATION centers for the 14th Uratex National Caddies Championship are at the National Golf Association of the Philippines and Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club.

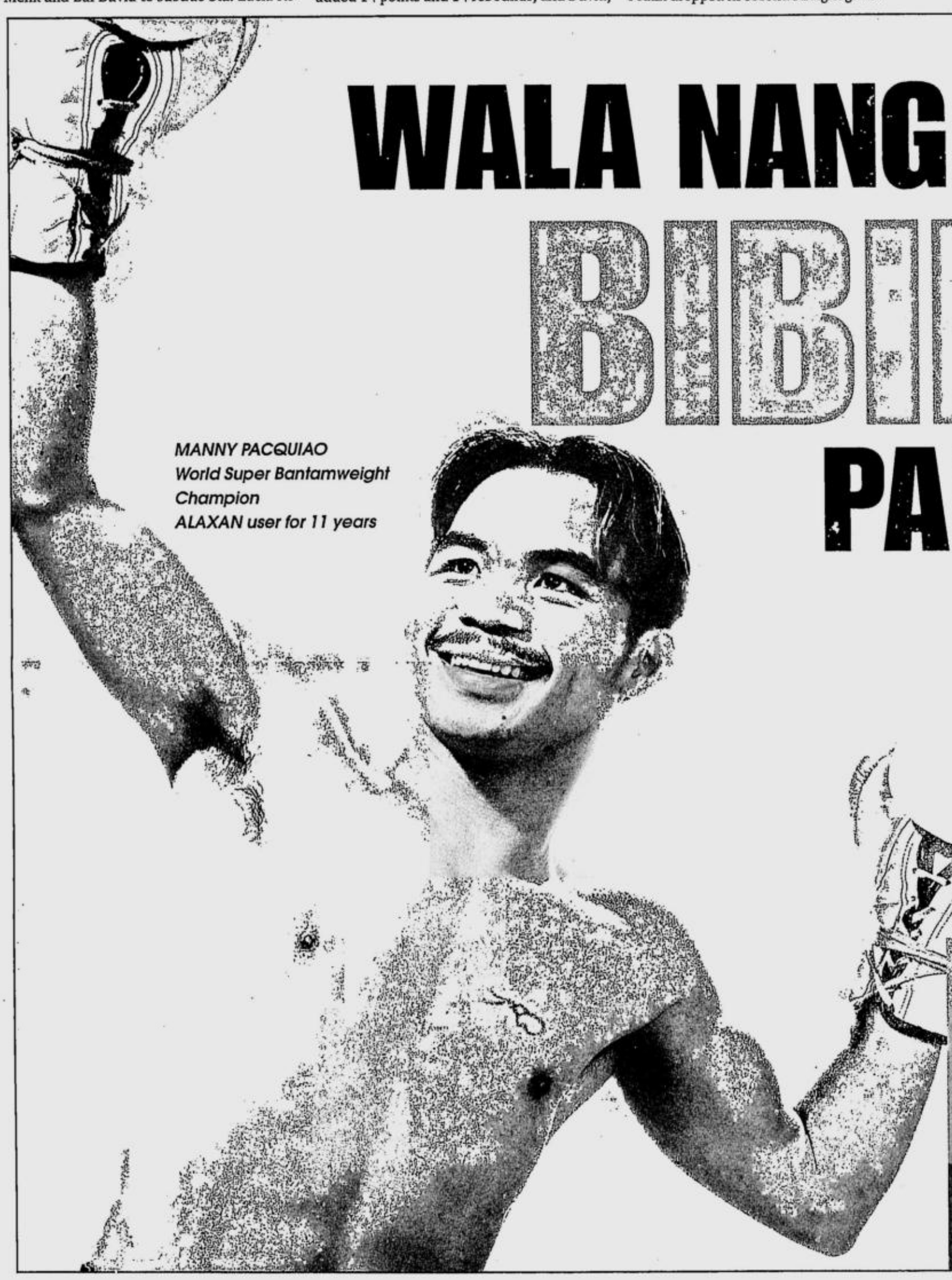
"Clubs interested in joining may sign up at the NGAP offices at telephones 525-69-87 and 524-51-60 and fax phone 521-15-78 through Hazel and Charlyn," said tournament committee co-chair Col. Abe Villanueva and Manding Santos yesterday.

The tournament is slated from Dec. 16 to 20.

Robert Cheng, the man who launched the event in 1988 to provide Filipino caddies their own exclusive tournament, reiterated his gratitude to the First Gentleman's gesture of coming into the tournament.

"I am extremely gratified to learn that the First Gentleman himself (Mike Arroyo) has expressed interest in joining me revive the tournament," said Cheng, president of the RGC Group of Companies.

WALA NANG
BIBELIS
PA!



Sa loob lang ng isang round naipagtanggol mo ang iyong titulo bilang IBF World Super Bantamweight Champion. Dahil sa iyo, lalong gumaan at lumakas ang aming loob na ipagmalaki ang ating pagka-Pilipino.

ANG GALING MO, MANNY!

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The Athlete's Foot
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·Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall · Robinsons Place Imus · Pavillion Mall Binan
·Robinsons Place Bacolod · Ayala Center Cebu · Gaisano Mall Davao
·Robinsons Iloilo · Tutuban · Cabanatuan · Festival Supermall Alabang
·Alimall Cubao · Baguio Center Mall · Ayala Center Makati
*Brands on Sale - Puma, NB, Nike, Reebok, And1, Wilson, Greg Norman, U.S. Kids Golf, Arena, Srixon

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Puma Concept Shop is located at:
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new balance
New Balance Concept Shop is located at:
·2nd Level Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang

arena
Arena Concept Shop is located at:
·4th Level, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Pasig

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B1 with us!

Gentxt gigs & get-togethers this November

Garden of Eden

The Grand Halloween Costume Ball

Where: Green Lounge, Greenbelt 3
When: October 31
The Gig: A fairy-inspired Halloween costume party of epic proportions.
Who's Invited: All Gentxt night creatures, costumed mystics, folk and kindred spirits
VIP Treatment: Free entrance for all Globe Handyphone subscribers
Free drinks for first 200 Gentxters
The Big Score: Nokia 7650 phones for the most magical outfits

Gentxt Cocktail Lounge Party Series

Where: Green Lounge, Greenbelt 3
When: November 8 & 9
The Gig: Experience the newest dazzling place in town at the Green Lounge with a moonlight groove party with Manila's hottest DJs.
Who's Invited: Groove-lovers and chill-out artists
Gentxt Exclusives: Free entrance, VIP area for Gentxters

Gentxt Fashion Collection

Where: The Podium Mall, Ortigas Center
When: November 16
The Gig: Gentxt fashion show with Cat Corporate models
After-event party mayhem at The Elbow Room
Who's Invited: Divas, fashionistas, glammies, [illegible]
Exclusive Gentxt Treatment: Giveaways to Fabulous [illegible]
10% discount on featured labels
Celebrity photo ops
Free food and drinks for after-event party
The Big Score: Free makeover for one lucky young Gentxter
Gentxt Model of the Night award

Gentxt Xtreme Xposed

Where: Ayala Center, Cebu
When: November 23 & 24
The Gig: Extreme Sports camp for thrill seekers
Who's Invited: Wall-climbers, inline skaters, thrashers, BMX boyz and all extreme sports aficionados.
The Drill: November 23 - National Speed Climbing Competition (15 competing schools nationwide), In-line Skating, Skateboarding, BMX Competition and Exhibition, Breakdancing/DJ Scratching, Celebrity Climb
The Payoff: November 24 - Puma Clothing Fashion Show
Exclusive MojoFly concert
Exclusive Gentxt Privileges: Free extreme sports clinics
Special discounts at all Power Up Gym branches
Special discounts on clothes and gear

Gentxt Movie Marathon

Where: Eastwood City Walk
When: November 30, 7pm
The Gig: A one-night only, outdoor movie experience
Fanatic exclusive
Who's Invited: Movie buffs, music enthusiasts
Saturday-night gimmick [illegible]
The Clincher: A nonstop lineup of [illegible] pleasers featuring "Zoolander", "Scorpion [illegible] and "The Fast and the Furious"
The Last Full Show: Special viewing of the "Oasis: Familiar to Millions" concert in Wembley Stadium.
Plus an after hours experience with the thrilling percussions of Latin Canteen!
Gentxt Perks: VIP viewing area for Gentxters
Welcome drinks
Discounts and privileges in participating bars

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■ More 'explosives,' more false alarms /A24

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ ON TARGET: How a radio-TV reporter solved a murder case /A24

Texting used against crime

By Alcuin Papa

METRO MANILA residents can now use their text-message habit to report bomb threats, theft and other crimes to the police.

The National Capital Region Police Office yesterday launched a volunteer civilian group called Magic Eye Txt Patrol, composed of about 20 business, civic, non-government and local government organizations to provide a base for a citizen-based crime reporting system.

The launch was held at the Club Filipino in San Juan.

Also participating in the program are the country's two largest cell phone service providers, Globe and Smart, and application provider Entertainment Gateway Group.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, the NCRPO chief, said Smart and Globe subscribers may now give information to police, through 2910, regarding an on-going crime, the sighting of a wanted person or an emergency situation that needs immediate police action.

Cell phone users may also text 2910 to request for announcements on crime-related issues from the Philippine National Police.

"With Project Magic Eye, we hope to create

TEXTING/ A24

EXPRESS ADVICE

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 89-100

Call 89-100 to report a lost or captured ATM card. A card may be captured by the ATM if it was previously reported as lost, or when you enter an incorrect PIN three times.

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The fully-loaded ATM card.

You're safe, police tell slain lotto winner's kin

By Nelson F. Flores

ADOPTED son and suspect Reynan Eupeña views the body of the slain lotto winner. VAL HANDUMON

ANTIPOLO City police chief Supt. Jose Dayco yesterday assured the members of the family of the slain Arturo Eupeña of their safety following reports that they feared they might be harmed.

This fear has apparently kept them away from the wake of Eupeña, whose remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Peace Chapel in Antipolo City. It has also kept them from giving their statements to police.

"They also have to present other evidence, which include the video tape of the last drinking session held at the Eupeña residence," Dayco

YOU'RE/ A24

Cemetery Club Tour

By Jerome Aning

A GUIDED tour of the Chinese and Manila North Cemeteries organized by the Heritage Conservation Society last Sunday might as well be a class on Philippine history and famous Filipinos.

Dubbed the Cemetry Club Tour, the excursion offered the participants—a French couple, a German family, an American, a balikbayan businessman and his children, and several locals like this writer—a glimpse of the country's history and the unique architecture of the mausolea and tomb designs.

HCS development director and chief guide Carlos Celdran said the tour is an annual activity, and last Sunday's was only the second conducted so far.

Celdran said the Chinese who were con-

CEMETERY/ A24

No leaves for all traffic officers

By Leila Salaverria and Jerome Aning

EXPECT traffic enforcers in Metro Manila to be at their posts in full force from today up to Sunday.

Officials of the Traffic Enforcement Group have canceled all leaves to ensure there would be enough officers to manage the heavy traffic volume expected to clog roads leading to cemeteries.

The traffic group head, Senior Supt. Luisito Maralit, said all personnel will not be allowed to go on leave from today to Nov. 3.

But he said Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando has assured the personnel they will be given overtime pay.

Maralit said more than 6,000 traffic enforcers, policemen and barangay watchmen will be deployed throughout Metro Manila.

Makati Police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez said gambling, TV sets and videoke machines are not allowed inside cemeteries.

The Makati City government yesterday

NO LEAVES/ A24

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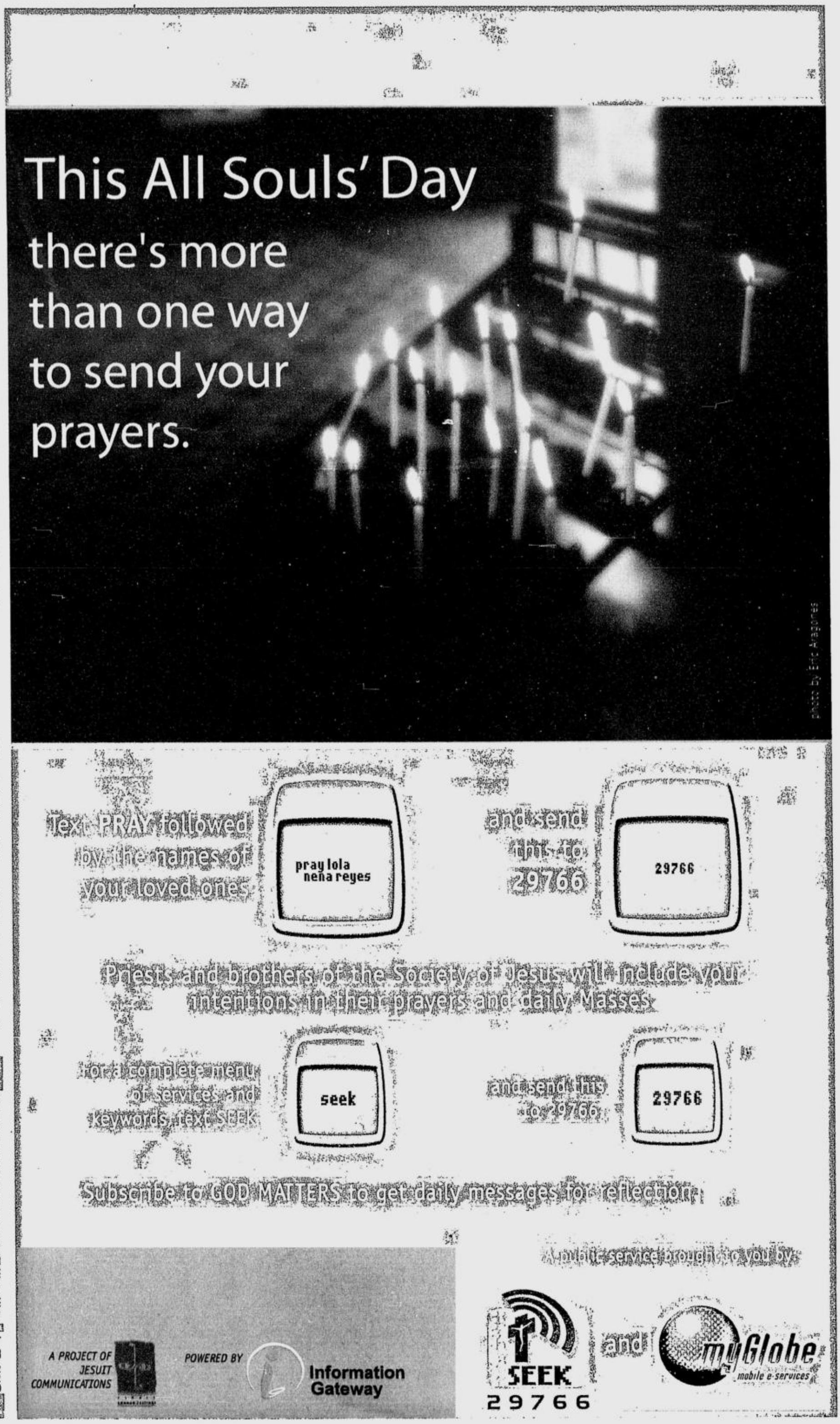


More 'explosives,' more false alarms

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos

A NERVOUS population continues to be wary of suspicious packages that might contain bombs, despite assurances from police and city officials.

The Explosives and Ordnance Division of the Makati police received two reports that unattended packages had been found in the city on Tuesday.

In Caloocan City, similar reports spread panic in a high school building, a furniture shop and a shopping mall, also on Tuesday.

But in all five cases, no explosives were found.

A shoe box was found beside a trash can outside the Makati Medical Hospital at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. But members of the EOD found only an old pair of rubber shoes inside the box.

Security guard Urbano Remio found a black bag along Urdaneta Street at 11:30 p.m., also on Tuesday. Again, the bag did not contain explosives.

Southern Police District Director Gen. Jose Gutierrez and Makati Police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez had earlier said police would not tire of responding to such reports.

But Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay appealed to pranksters to stop conducting bogus reports that waste police time and energy.

This month alone, Makati has received several bomb threats, most of which turned out to be false alarms. But a bomb threat at the Oakwood Plaza in Glorietta yielded a box that police believed contained explosive powder.

Caloocan police chief Senior Supt. Benjardin Mantele said no explosives were found in all the bomb scare incidents.

In the first incident, police learned that the Deparo High School had received a phone call from a man warning that a bomb had been planted in the school building.

Police Precinct 14 commander SPO3 Jose Olaer said that according to assistant principal Mila Nerza, the phone's caller ID showed that the call came from "024182555."

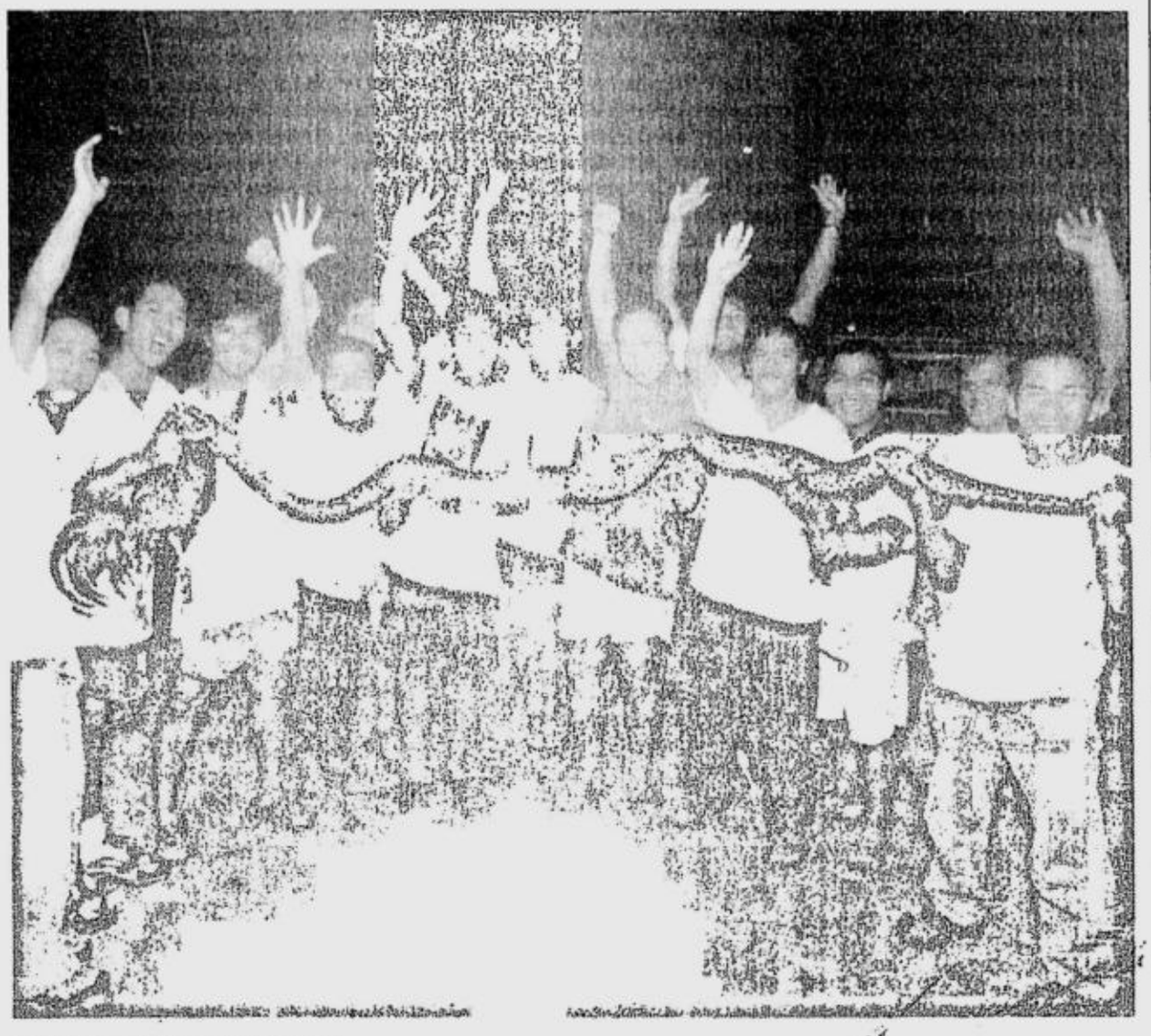
Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, with the help of bomb-sniffing dogs, found plant fertilizer and a rugby bottle.

The second incident occurred at 4:15 p.m. at the Gotesco Grand Central Shopping Complex. The Bench outlet on the second floor reported that two men had left two bags in the shop's courtesy booth. The SWAT team led by PO3 Renato Samson and K-9 handler Jojo Rodis discovered that the bags contained soiled clothes and some electrical tools.

The bags were later found to belong to Crispin Meneses and Dan de la Peña, both 31, construction workers and natives of Barangay San Agustin, Candaba, Pampanga. They said they left their bags and then went to watch a movie at the Gotesco cinema.

The latest scare was reported at 10 p.m. when the phoned-in threat was received by an employee of Space Wood Enterprises on P. Jacinto Street.

PO3 Wilson Reyes said the SWAT team again found no explosives.



PLAYGROUND PYTHON
Residents of Barangay Valencia in Quezon City show off a 12-foot-long snake they caught in the village playground.

BOY CABRIDO

How a radio-TV reporter solved a murder case

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

BEFORE some local terrorist groups get an idea from that bloody hostage incident in Moscow, our government should start training an elite group of soldiers or policemen to deal with mass hostage-taking.

The elite troops should train hard. Our government should cast aside national pride by asking Uncle Sam to send US Army Delta Force soldiers here to train the special troops. Anyway, US Special Forces soldiers have already trained some of our boys in mountain guerrilla warfare in Basilan.

So, why not have some of our soldiers or policemen trained by Delta Force troops in dealing with urban guerrillas or terrorists who might stage a Moscow-type hostage- taking?

* * *

A total of 115 hostages were killed when Russian special troops stormed the theater where Chechen rebels were holding some 800 theater patrons.

If the Russian soldiers, with all their training, bungled the operation, can you expect our soldiers or policemen to do better in a similar situation?

We have to face the truth that our soldiers and policemen have inadequate training so they can improve.

* * *

The suspect in the General Santos bombing that killed 15 innocent mall shoppers has escaped from police custody.

So, what else is new? If the guy wasn't able to escape, then that would have been a big story!

* * *

No matter how drastic his proposal is, I now agree with Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla who has filed a bill that seeks to make it unprofitable for a jail guard to allow his prisoner to escape.

Under the Remulla bill, jail guards from whose custody dangerous criminals escape should be made to face trial for the charges filed against their erstwhile wards. And if the sentence on the escaped accused is death by lethal injection, the same sentence should be imposed on the jail guards.

Hmmm, the bill makes sense. At least, to this writer.

* * *

Why does a jail guard allow a prisoner or detainee in his custody to escape?

One of two reasons, or both: He has developed close friendship with the detainee or prisoner, or he was given a monetary offer he couldn't resist. More likely, it's the second reason.

Even if he gets kicked out of the service, he won't mind because he has earned a windfall from his conspiracy with the escaped suspect or criminal.

* * *

So that the jail guard won't profit from his misdeed, he should be made to serve the sentence imposed on the escaped prisoner or detainee.

Although the offered solution sounds ludicrous, why don't Remulla's colleagues in Congress take a long, hard look at the problem?

It might yet solve the problem of escaping prisoners or detainees.

* * *

Would you believe one of my reporters in "Isumbong Mo kay Tulfo" helped solve a murder case in Malabon?

Amelia Tapia, mother of 23-year-old Alvin, sought the help of our public service program after the Malabon police could not identify the suspect or suspects in her son's killing.

* * *

Alvin Tapia was taken into custody by some barangay *tanod* (village guards) after somebody complained that Alvin beat him up. Alvin was shot pointblank while being taken to the Tonsuya barangay hall.

The watchmen told police investigators Alvin was shot by an unidentified man while he was seated with them in a pickup on their way to the barangay hall. The police believed the watchmen's story.

* *

But we in "Isumbong" did not believe the *tanod* story. I sent Charlotte Dianco, an AB psychology graduate from the University of the Philippines, to conduct her own investigation.

Dianco got a witness, a deaf-mute, who through sign language said he saw the whole incident.

With the deaf -mute in tow, Dianco asked police investigators to go with her to the Tonsuya barangay hall. There, the deaf-mute pointed to one of the watchmen, Manny Tiongson, as the one who shot Alvin at close range.

Case closed. Tiongson is now in jail awaiting trial for murder.

* * *

If a third party, namely we in "Isumbong" (ahem), did not intervene, you think the case would have been solved? You're naive if you think the police would have solved the case on their own.

On her own initiative, reporter Dianco was able to get a witness to the murder. The Malabon police had already consigned Alvin's murder in the unsolved cases file. The police readily believed the story of the watchmen that an unidentified gunman, and not one of them, had shot Alvin.

You're safe, police...

From page A23

said.

Earlier, Dayco said police had four suspects, including the victim's wife Leticia, 52, and adopted son Reynan, 31, a beautician.

Dayco said the Eupeña couple had a disagreement over the daily drinking sessions in their house at Block 9, Lot 2 Nazarene Ville in Barangay San Roque, Antipolo.

At least P50,000 was spent on 22 cases of beer and food during the drinking session last Sunday when he celebrated his 58th birthday, according to Dayco.

Because of the couple's disagreement, Leticia left her husband over the weekend and stayed with a relative in Quezon City, Dayco said.

"We find it odd that Ms Eupeña would just leave her husband like that so we are investigating," said Dayco, who also clarified that it was she who won the lotto last Oct. 19 and not her husband.

But Dayco said Eupeña had also won several millions earlier in the lottery.

Leticia earlier said she had left their house after she noticed several suspicious-looking men on board a jeep outside their house on Sunday morning, the day before her husband was killed.

Armed men barged into Eupeña's home and shot him dead about 1 a.m. Monday.

Police said Eupeña probably tried to resist the suspects, who also took his new Toyota-High Ace van.

Adopted son Reynan, who was in the house during the killing, had told police he begged the robbers not to kill him.

But Dayco said Reynan's presence in the house was suspicious since he no longer lived there and only returned after Eupeña had won the lottery. Dayco said there was also no reason for the killers to spare Reynan's life since he saw them kill his father.

Police are also eyeing as a suspect Eupeña's neighbor Rico Guatno, who had denied to police that he was present during the killing. He had allegedly called police hotline 117 to report the killing.

Police are also looking for Eupeña's houseboy.

STRIKER STRUCK DOWN
Bus conductor Noel Dalogdog cries for help as policemen handcuff him for refusing to leave the picket line at the JAC Liner bus terminal on Edsa in Quezon City.

VAL HANDUMON

Texting used vs crime

From page A23

the impression that every criminal, terrorist or corrupt policeman is being watched at all times," said Velasco.

Globe and Smart will provide the use of 2910 free of charge as a public service.

"The Magic Eye Txt Patrol service will promote vigilance and encourage the involvement of citizens," said Jerome Almirante, Smart head for marketing.

Velasco said that if the program proves effective in Metro Manila, it will be expanded to nearby regions and later to all regions that can be reached by cell phones.

Velasco's Magic Eye program started in July as a scheme to catch policemen in the act of extortion. It also uses TV cameras to catch civilian law-breakers in the act.

"The program has led to the busting of 16 criminal syndicates in the city and the arrest and dismissal of a number of bad cops," Velasco said.

The program also includes crime mapping in every police district for effective deployment of policemen, "Huli-Agad" which employs motorcycle police patrols and special action teams in response to messages from 2910, "Police Express" which brings police service to malls and crime-prone neighborhoods, "Pulis Malinis" which promotes clean grooming and clean living among policemen, re-training of policemen, and police welfare and livelihood programs.

Cemetery Club Tour

From page A23

fined to ghettoes when they were still alive were also segregated when they died. The cemetery, which sits on a lot that used to be owned by the Dominican friars, is the final resting place of many Chinese from the Spanish period to modern times.

HCS member Michael Lu said every grave is a shrine to the dead.

Celdran and Lu during the tour discussed the Chinese influence on Philippine culture and history. They re-told the lives and achievements of the Chinese tycoons and tai pans, like Celdran's account of the famous culinary invention of "mami magnate" Ma Mon Luk.

Cleansing

The atrocities during the Japanese Occupation were recounted on the tombs and monuments honoring an executed Chinese consul, Chinese guerillas and ordinary Chinese who were victims of "ethnic cleansing."

Lu said the equivalent of All Saints' Day in the Chinese lunar calendar actually falls either in April or March and is called "Tomb Sweeping Day." But most Chinese, he said, have grown accustomed to honoring their dead on November 1, a public holiday.

At the Manila North Cemetery, many people on board cars and tricycles were already visiting. "This is the noisiest cemetery on earth," said one of the Germans.

The mushrooming vendors' stalls also reminded the group that the dead can still help the living earn a living. But the foreigners were aghast that a popular fast food restaurant was setting up booths in the cemetery.

Main Avenue

North Cemetery's Main Avenue is not only the major artery of the necropolis but also its VIP lane, which is lined by tombs of the country's presidents, statesmen, war heroes and national artists.

Lining the avenue are the graves of Presidents Sergio Osmeña, Manuel Roxas and Ramon Magsaysay, Senators Claro M. Recto and Quintin Paredes, Manila mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, boxing champion Pancho Villa, the Basas, 1896 Revolution and Philippine-American War heroes like Gregoria de Jesus, Mariano Noriel, Emiliano Riego de Dios, Pio del Pilar.

The Nakpil-Bautista family plot was the perfect setting for a discussion on the controversial Luna painting "Parisian Life," which a government agency bought for P50 million at a recent Hong Kong auction.

One of the figures in the 110-year-old painting, the propagandist Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin, is buried in the family plot along with members of the clan which owned the painting, including composer Julio Nakpil and his wife Gregoria de Jesus-Nakpil.

Thomasites

A plot where more than two dozen American teachers called the Thomasites were buried evoked much curiosity and reverence from the tourists.

The teachers, Celdran explained, spent years in the country to "modernize" and "Americanize" the educational system. Unaccustomed to the country's climate, the Thomasites died one by one from tuberculosis, pneumonia, malaria or some other tropical disease, he said.

Near the Thomasites' graves are the tombs with markers dating from the early 20th century. Here lie the country's first regular policemen and peacetime soldiers, most of whom were Americans.

The tomb marker of the Roxas family's pet dog, which Celdran recalled to have seen once, is now missing. The large metal inscription that spelled "Pray for me" at Senator Paredes' grave is gone, probably sold for scrap metal.

The mausoleum of the veterans of the 1896 Revolution reeked with urine and showed signs that people had lived there.

"The North Cemetery is the site of one of the city's largest squatter community, which should be the target of the government's resettlement program," Celdran said.

With the cemetery tour, the tourists would hopefully remember that a country owes its current state not only to the living but also to those who had gone after doing their part in the development of Philippine society and culture.

No leaves for all traffic officers

From page A23

said several streets will be closed to traffic beginning today. They include Kalayaan Avenue, Nicanor Garcia Street, South Avenue, Vito Cruz Extension and Pililia Street.

J.P. Rizal Avenue will be open to two-way traffic, from Makati Avenue to Trabajo Street.

In Manila, Aurora Avenue from Rizal Avenue to Dimasalang Circle and its peripheral roads will be closed to traffic from 6 a.m. today to Sunday afternoon.

Traffic police chief Senior Supt. Gil de Castro said the southern portion of Retiro Street near the Manila North Cemetery will be closed.

MPD's Director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong said only the main entrances of the North and Chinese cemeteries in Sta. Cruz and the city-owned Manila South Cemetery in Makati City will be open.

Bulaong said all vehicles—except ambulances on emergency standby and cars of elderly VIPs—will be barred from entering the North and South cemeteries.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Stars as show biz talk show hosts

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday's "S-Files" on Channel 7 was hosted by **Janice de Belen, Richard Gomez** and **Joey Marquez** (pitching in for **Paolo Bediones**). The fact that all three were stars, and that they were hosting a show biz talk show, confused and /or bothered some viewers. What, they wanted to know, was going on?

They pointed out that show biz talk shows are supposed to report on the activities of entertainment stars. When three stars report on the activities of their fellow-celebrities how does this alter the usual equation between stars on the one hand, and hosts on the other?

In last Sunday's telecast, the advantages and disadvantages were obvious: On the plus side, the star-hosts were intimately familiar with the field their program was covering. Thus their side comments were informed, and added to viewers comprehension of the events being discussed.

On the other hand, the fact that the program hosts were stars shifted the focus from the events themselves, to the star-hosts who were both reporting on and annotating them.

This fudged focus made some parts of the show rather self-serving, because the emphasis was not so much on the events, but on what the star-hosts thought about them.

In other words, there was too much importance placed on the star-hosts, even if some viewers weren't really all that interested in their opinions, and simply wanted to be informed about what was going on in show biz on that particular week.

No doubt, the show's having hosts who are stars in their own right has made it more popular, but it's also reduced its objectivity. It has also provided the three stars with a public forum that other stars don't enjoy, so when there's a conflict between them, the issue is canted against the other stars who are on the receiving end of the star-hosts opinions or criticism. Not fair!

It would be good if TV executives rethink this entire question of the advisability of getting stars to host show biz talk shows. It's become too complicated to be dismissed as simply the latest wrinkle on the TV programming scene, like it or lump it. What do you think?

Films for Halloween

FOR people planning to put up cinematic spookfests for Halloween, tapes or discs of these scary movies should do the trick—or treat!:

From director Wes Craven: "The Hills Have Eyes," "Last House on the Left," "Nightmare on Elm Street," "Scream."

David Cronenberg: "Shivers," "Rabid," "The Brood," "Scanners," "The Fly," "The Dead Zone."

Roger Corman: "Not of This Earth," "The Undead," "House of Usher," "Pit and the Pendulum," "The Raven, " "The Masque of the Red Death," "Frankenstein Unbound."

Tim Burton: "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "Edward Scissorshands."

John Carpenter: "Halloween," "The Thing," "Village of the Damned."

Francis Ford Coppola: " Bram Stoker's "Dracula.

Joe Dante: "Gremlins," "The Howling."

Jonathan Demme: "Silence of the Lambs."

Brian De Palma: "Carrie."

John Frankenheimer: "The Island of Dr. Moreau."

William Friedkin: "The Exorcist," "Sorcerer."

Alfred Hitchcock: "Psycho," " The Birds," "Dial M for Murder," "Frenzy."

Bob Rafelson, "The Postman Always Rings Twice."

Bryan Forbes, "Seance on a Wet Afternoon."

Roman Polanski, "Rosemarie's Baby," "Repulsion," "Knife in the Water."

Stanley Kubrick: "The Shining."

John Landis: "An American Werewolf in London."

Fritz Lang: "The Thousand Eyes of Dr. Mabuse."

Sam Raimi: "The Evil Dead."

George Romero: "Night of the Living Dead," "Creepshow," "Tales from the Darkside."

Ken Russell: "The Devils."

Don Siegel: "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

Jack Clayton: "The Innocents."

James Whale: "Bride of Frankenstein."

Robert Wise: "The Body Snatcher," "The Curse of the Cat People," "The Haunting."

Martin Scorsese: "Cape Fear."

Steven Spielberg: "Jaws."

Robert Florey: "Murders in the Rue Morgue."

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INVENTOR

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"CROSSOVER Presents" features Lani Misalucha in a special one-night engagement, Nov. 14 at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

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SHOWS

Lani will be joined onstage by musical director Gerard Salonga, with "Crossover Presents" resident musicians and talented vocal group The Opera.

Special guest is comedienne Nanette Inventor.

The soothing strains of Da Capo starts off the show at 8 p.m.

For ticket inquiries, call the Crossover office at 731-1667, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888.

Robinsons malls

WATCH your favorite artists live in free concerts every weekend at the Robinsons malls this November.

The Yes FM concert series invades Robinsons Metro East on Nov. 8 and Robinsons Place Imus on Nov. 18. Both shows will feature upcoming singers such as Toni Gonzaga, Von Arroyo, Rea Valle Yamani and the April Boys.

Moonstar 88, the band behind the hit song "Torete," will visit Robinsons Galleria on Nov. 9 to give listeners a peek at their second album, "Press to Play." They will be at Robinsons Metro East on Nov. 10, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga on Nov. 18 and at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Place Manila on Nov. 17

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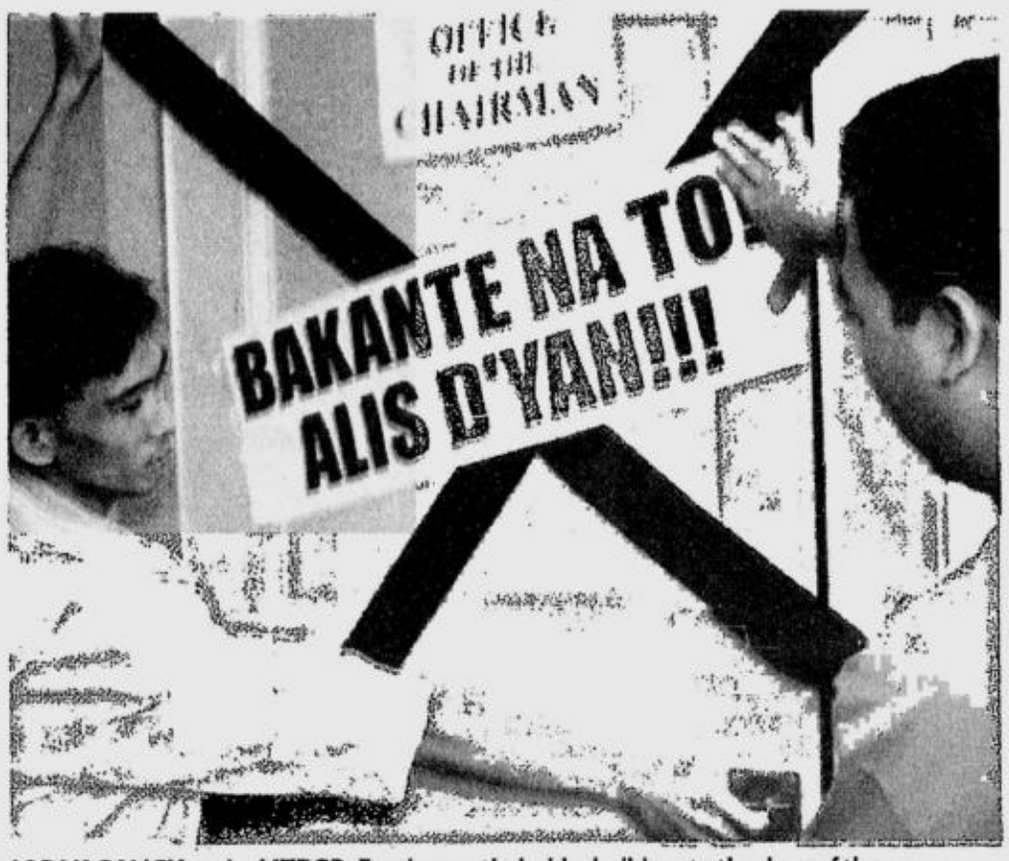
MTRCB employees say Dinglasan still harassing them



JOB VACANCY at the MTRCB. Employees tied a black ribbon to the door of the chairman's office in protest. JOAN BONDOC

By Marinel R. Cruz

EMPLOYEES of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board on Tuesday held a rally to protest what they said was continued harassment by their former chief, Mari-len Dinglasan, two weeks after President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was leaving the position of board chairman vacant.

Members of the MTRCB Employees Association waved placards that said "MTRCB Chairman: Vacant," "Bakante Na Ito" and "Alis D'yan" and tied a black ribbon to the door of the chairman's office.

"We're wondering why she keeps on harassing employees even when the President has declared her position vacant," said MTRCB Employees Association president Mina Nacilla. "We don't know if (President) GMA is aware of what her friend is doing."

Nacilla said Dinglasan "terrorized" the employees by delaying the release of their salaries and threatening to charge them with insubordination for disobeying her orders.

Nacilla said Dinglasan just "laughed off" the Tuesday picket when she arrived at the MTRCB office at the President Tower in Quezon City in the afternoon.

Dinglasan later told the INQUIRER that the protest action was a sign that "the employees are now bordering on lawlessness."

"*Masyado silang nagmamadali,*" she said. "They think they can tell the President what to do."

Nacilla said that since the President's Oct. 16 announcement that the MTRCB chair's position was vacant, Dinglasan has been reporting for work every day.

Nacilla said she found this puzzling because, out of the 66 working days of the three months that Dinglasan was chair, she reported for work for only 16 days.

Dinglasan said that since there is no official announcement from Malacañang yet as to who will be the next chair or officer in charge, "my work is the same until I get replaced."

"I sign more than 50 permits a day," she said. "If I don't go to work, who will sign the permits? And you would not be able to watch anything on television for the next four days."

A source close to Dinglasan said the protesters where not employees but were perceived to be members of the Sanlakas group, "who merely wanted to disrupt the normal functions of the office."

"The incident angered some board members who only went to the office only because they wanted to work," the source added.

The source called Tuesday's protest a "desperate move to try to encourage the media to publicize what to most of us is a non-issue."

The source said the President's message was clear. "She didn't appoint any official to lead the MTRCB because the case against Chairman Dinglasan was still being investigated," he said. "Until the investigation is done, Dinglasan will continue to perform her duties in a hold-over capacity, which the President herself granted her."

"Had I not taken the oath to serve the government, I would be having a vacation in Boracay by now," Dinglasan added. "But I will not abandon it, I will continue to serve the people."

The Halloween guide to monster hunting

By Oliver Pulumbarit
Contributor

MONSTERS come in all shapes, sizes and philosophies, fulfilling their need to create chaos in the lives of their carefully chosen or randomly selected prey.

Basically, monsters are the embodiments of primordial, unreasonable forces, and they are found everywhere in lore, fairy tales, nursery rhymes and, this being the age of pop culture, in video games, print, and especially in both movies and television.

To celebrate this time of the year, there's a long suspenseful parade of monsters on free TV, cable, and in the movies. There's always the option of renting videotapes or VCDs. Rent some really nice ones from the tons of monster pictures available, quit supporting the piracy monster (sorry, couldn't resist the metaphor), and reacquaint yourself with the screen monsters of your choice.

For lovers of genuinely ghastly entity-possession films, undoubtedly the first one that comes to mind is "The Exorcist." The initial frights come from the effects value, but for adults, the metaphysical implications of the movie and its sequels presented even more terrifying ideas.

The unseen title entity from the "Blair Witch Project" has created some original chills, inspiring a reality-based TV series, "Scariest Places on Earth" (which annoyingly rips off the camera angles, the panic and the screaming from the seminal movie, although they do have some rare good episodes).

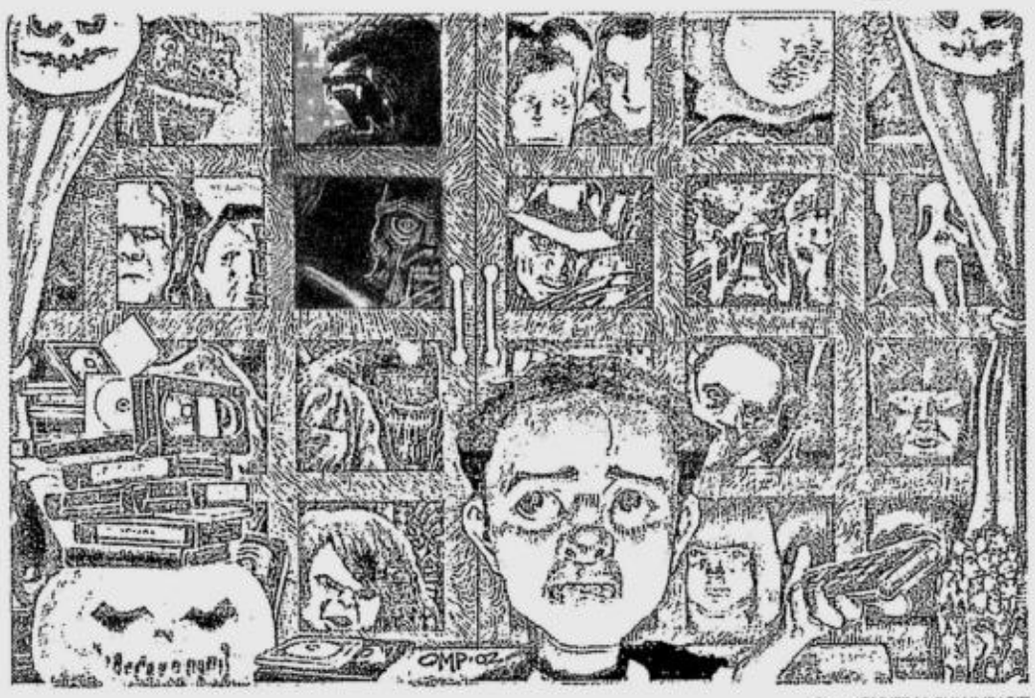
A visible but no less dangerous monster is the vampire. Dracula, the most-filmed character in history, has been portrayed by the likes of Bela Lugosi, Christopher Lee and Gary Oldman, to name a few. "Nosferatu," a 1922 German version of a grotesque Dracula, was remade for modern audiences in 1979. The recent "Shadow of the Vampire" is a twisted reality where the actor playing Nosferatu is really a bloodsucker.

Author Anne Rice's take on the undead is characterized by the more humanized and doubly dangerous vampire. Screen translations of her characters Lestat, Louis and other nocturnal feeders live intriguing lives in "Interview With the Vampire" and "Queen of the Damned."

Sexual aura

Not all vampires are sinister, however: "Forever Knight" and "Angel" showcase TV's conflicted agents for good. Cheesy but entertaining flicks "Fright Night" and "The Lost Boys" have their charming monsters seducing innocent humans to their fold, but ultimately fail in corrupting them even when they get vampire-ized.

Most vampires have a sexual aura, as implied by their need to be intimate with their victims' veins and bodies.



ART BY OLIVER M. PULUMBARIT

MONSTERS ALL: These villains have specialized in creating movie mayhem.

Also undead, zombies are re-animated corpses. They abound in George Romero's "Night of the Living Dead" and Sam Raimi's "Evil Dead" trilogy, and various low-budget imitations.

A variation of the restored creature is Frankenstein's monster, the popular patchwork man that's also been played by Lugosi and Lee, and most recently, by Robert de Niro. These monsters are often confused, unrelenting brutes with a hankering for brains, or companionship (awww).

A unique undead ghoul is the magically controlled assassin, the Headless Horseman, from "Sleepy Hollow." The re-animated monster has chilled horror fans throughout the decades with its unpredictability and capacity for destruction.

Then there's the disturbed monster, the bloodthirsty psychopath. Hitchcock's "Psycho" is the first true slasher film, the character Norman Bates an archetypal movie maniac.

"Texas Chainsaw Massacre" has Leatherface cornering hapless, potential human meals. The unspeaking Michael Myers from "Halloween" has an unpainted Shatner mask and kills on his special day. Jason Voorhees, the hockey mask-wearing exterminator of oversexed camp counselors, has had 10 "Friday the 13th" movies, dedicated to his gruesome exploits.

Also sequel-heavy, "Nightmare on Elm Street" features child abuser Freddy Krueger as the dream-invading phantom with the clawed glove who uses his victims' phobias against them.

John Doe, a repulsive serial killer from the movie "Seven," attacks his targets with his diabolical twist on the seven deadly sins. Hannibal "the Cannibal" Lecter chomps up his adversaries, but not before artfully preparing them.

The revisionist "Scream" trilogy pokes fun at the whole slasher sub-genre, its resident killer Ghostface hiding several identities and motivations behind the masks. This inspired watered-down clone baddies in films such as "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "Urban Legends" and "Valentine."

Extraordinary gifts

Perhaps the second most popular supernatural screen monster next to vampires is the werewolf. Lawrence Talbot (Lon Chaney Jr.) is the lycanthrope in "The Wolf Man." The '80s gave way to classic horror faves "Wolfen," "The Company of Wolves," "The Howling" and "American Werewolf in London."

Different interpretations of the man-monster were later approached in "Wolf," "Bad Moon" and "Ginger Snaps."

Forces or freaks of nature transcend paranormal and mystical connotations. Whether they be evil kids (Damien from "The Omen," the characters from "Village of the Damned" and "Children of the Corn" and, okay, "Tiyanak") or evil dogs ("Cujo" and Max from "Man's Best Friend"), they're disarming representations of unlikely threats, normal things gone wrong.

Hitchcock's "The Birds," the time-displaced dinos of "Jurassic Park," "King Kong," the hungry shark from "Jaws," and even the original Godzilla have terrorized humans with their nigh-unstoppable brute force.

Ordinary persons with extraordinary gifts usually don't have happy endings in this category: Acquiring the coveted power of invisibility made the title characters from "The Invisible Man" and "Hollow Man" deranged. The telekinetic women from "Carrie" and its sequel also went mad.

The Gill Man of "Creature from the Black Lagoon" was a hidden hybrid being that was forced to retaliate against people who invaded its turf. The scientist character from "The Fly" lost his humanity and his life after mutating into a bug-man (he wasn't lucky enough to become a certain Wallcrawler superhero).

Wandering souls

The extraterrestrial monster has its own culture and intentions. "The X-Files" has oodles of aliens with less than warm-and-fuzzy Spielberg agendas. The Predator is an otherworlder who hunts its game with utter precision. The leathery, acid-spewing animals from the "Alien" franchise have a nasty habit of using humans as spawning hosts.

Of course, there's also monsters of the ectoplasmic variety. "House on a Haunted Hill" and "Thirteen Ghosts" have been remade for contemporary times.

Recent ghostfests "The Frighteners," "The Sixth Sense," "The Others" and "The Gift" spooked audiences with fresh new takes on the subject.

A TV program called "The Others" (with no relation to the movie) focused on psychics and clairvoyants who help wandering souls. Shows like "Twilight Zone," "Tales From the Crypt," and "Night Visions" have given different ideas on the recently departed's spirit manifestations.

The writers of "Buffy" call it "phlebotinin," the supernatural element woven into the script that the lead character and her allies must confront, catalogue, and learn from. This series has shown every kind of monster, even the friendly ones. That's how malleable the word has become, since not every monster is innately evil, as mentioned in some of the cases above.

In any case, the fantasy of most of these screen monsters is very attractive in its own cathartic way, a respite from the horrors of unbelievable, real life monstrosities.

Amoeba bar spreads the 'virus'

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

A LUNAR-POWERED party animal like me surely revels every time Halloween comes around. I revel with a cause (*au contraire* to being a rebel without a cause, as some insinuate)! Amid all the inane reports about me, I choose to party on. With my chin up, I go bottoms up!

I had a blast at the opening of Amoeba Music Recall Bar and Restaurant (G3 Fuente Circle Eastwood City Walk, Libis, Quezon City) with my friend over and beyond the call of duty, **Jonn Santillan**, and his cool bro **Julius**. Amoeba's well-loved queen **Vivian Sarabia**, with the help of her partners **Roger** and **Cherry Go** and **Mon Arroyo**, rolled out the red carpet for all her celebrity guests such as the inimitable **Korina Sanchez** escorted by her suave boyfriend **Paul Aquino**, the ravishing **Joyce Jimenez**, perky **Jamie Rivera**, gorgeous **Vicky Belo**, fun gal **Rina Reyes**, wacky **Tirso "Pipo" Cruz**, winsome **Angeli Valenciano**, to name a few.

Why Amoeba? "Since Amoeba is a single cell organism, we want to start an outbreak and spread the virus, so to speak," said Vivian. "Music Recall because the bands play the soundtrack of our lives. We're the only bar in Eastwood that features '60s-'90s tunes. Our bands for November are the Flinstones, Bedroom Boys, Acoustic Jive and Dusk Till Dawn."

We ended up playing "name that tune" all night with Angeli, Julius and Pipo. After Pipo gamely sang, I asked him why he doesn't revive his band with **Christopher de Leon** et al. He sighed, "I wish I had time but having a regular gig is no joke. It can't be just a pastime. You really have to get up on stage every single night and sing your heart out."

Pipo does not look a day older than his Guy and Pip photos. He proclaimed, "I'm retarded," and laughed.

Angeli reminisced about her stint with the Music and Magic and regaled us with her "drugstore bag" filled with all sorts of medicines and ointments in case her beloved **Gary V** gets a diabetes attack. "It's not easy being the wife of a diabetic musical genius but Gary makes it worth it," she said.

It seemed like the bar's ambience had put us in a nostalgic mood. Rina and I were laughing all night as we looked back at how cheesy we were during our Junior Newswatch days. And what's new with her? Good news ought to be spread around so Rina must pardon me for squealing that she and her husband are on the verge of a reconciliation. She's also slated to do a movie comeback soon. As Jonn commented, "She's still as flawless as ever."

I left my good friend Korina pretty much to herself that night. I didn't want to intrude into her romantic evening with Paul. It's not every night that someone as busy as Korina can unwind away from public scrutiny. The formidable broadcast journalist took a back seat that night and Korina turned into a blushing teener dressed in a woman's clothes.

Joyce was dateless. I noticed that when she attends parties the sex goddess would rather dress down so as not to draw too much attention to herself. That says a lot about how secure she is about herself. I teased Joyce about her ex **Jay Manalo**. Didn't sparks fly during their recent movie together? She smiled. "It's totally over between us. No more bitterness, that's why we were able to work together smoothly. I'm happily unattached by choice for now." Judging from the happy faces in the star-studded fete, the fun virus in Amoeba is truly contagious.

Sud-Ouest

ALLIANCE Francaise de Manille, together with Rouge et Blanc, an up and coming importer of wines from the southwest of France, has organized one amazing evening of two events on Nov. 8 at Le Coude restaurant (AFM 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati).

Start the night with an authentic and delectable French dinner prepared by Le Souffle chef de cuisine **Marc Aubry**. Delicious specialties coming from the southwestern part of France will be found on the menu.

Tickets for the dinner cost P1,700 for AFM members and P1,900 for non-members.

If that doesn't whet your appetite, the night gets even more mouth-watering. Stick around for the second half of the Sud-Ouest event. From 10 p.m. onwards, savor an evening of jazz, blues and bossa nova music. Relax and enjoy a few drinks while listening to Brazilian guitarist **Paulo Froes**, as he jams live with AFM's very own **Philippe Bosquet** on the piano. Later on in the evening, Sud-Ouest will welcome a new blues-rock band, the Hot Mojo Club. Open to the public with no cover charge. As they say in gay Paris, "Laissez le bon temps rouler!"

Just asking

COULD it be true that **Assunta de Rossi**'s mom and sister **Alessandra** are wary of her impending marriage to Rep. **Jules Ledesma** because of his alleged flare-ups? An insider tipped me off that Assunta has not been too conscientious about her taping schedules because all it takes is one call from her fiance and off she goes scurrying home.

Is it true that **Miriam Quiambao**'s new paramour is a dashing mayor from Cebu? Will the beauty queen reign over the charming southern city soon?

Personal

BONNE anniversaire to ma cherie soeur **Clara**. You will always be my baby sister no matter how tall you grow.

Happy birthday also to two of my sweetest and funkiest friends in the biz, **Tin-Tin Bersola** and **Pia Guanio**. Here's to our "Powder Puff Girls bonding" in ABS-CBN's make-up room as we get ready for our close-ups!

Birthday cheers to my round-the-clock amiga **Joy de la Rosa**.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

JOYCE JIMENEZ, Jonn Santillan and moi. PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

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KORINA SANCHEZ and Paul Aquino.

Freestyle in Cebu

CEBUANOS can enjoy a night with Jinky, Top and the rest of Freestyle in an "All Soul in Cebu" concert at the Waterfront Cebu Hotel at 8:30 tonight.

Joining Freestyle at the Pacific Grand Ballroom of Waterfront Cebu is special guest Ogie Alcasid, composer of one of their biggest hits, "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang."

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Freestyle fans can get a chance to win a concert ticket to "All Soul in Cebu" when you swap your non-Smart SIM with a Smart 64K Supersim at the Cebu Wireless and TSI Centers at SM City Cebu and at the JRG Building on Mango Avenue.

Tickets (P600, 350 and P250) are available at Dunkin Donuts Metro Cebu outlets, SM Department Store Consumer Service, Ayala Center Costumer Care, Supercat Terminals, Jr. Finex office and at Waterfront Cebu. The concert is for the benefit of the Philippine Councilors League, Cebu City Chapter.

Amoeba bar spreads the 'virus'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

A LUNAR-POWERED party animal like me surely revels every time Halloween comes around. I revel with a cause (*au contraire* to being a rebel without a cause, as some insinuate)! Amid all the inane reports about me, I choose to party on. With my chin up, I go bottoms up!

I had a blast at the opening of Amoeba Music Recall Bar and Restaurant (G3 Fuente Circle Eastwood City Walk, Libis, Quezon City) with my friend over and beyond the call of duty, **Jonn Santillan**, and his cool bro **Julius**. Amoeba's well-loved queen **Vivian Sarabia**, with the help of her partners **Roger** and **Cherry Go** and **Mon Arroyo**, rolled out the red carpet for all her celebrity guests such as the inimitable **Korina Sanchez** escorted by her suave boyfriend **Paul Aquino**, the ravishing **Joyce Jimenez**, perky **Jamie Rivera**, gorgeous **Vicky Belo**, fun gal **Rina Reyes**, wacky **Tirso "Pipo" Cruz**, winsome **Angeli Valenciano**, to name a few.

Why Amoeba? "Since Amoeba is a single cell organism, we want to start an outbreak and spread the virus, so to speak," said Vivian. "Music Recall because the bands play the soundtrack of our lives. We're the only bar in Eastwood that features '60s-'90s tunes. Our bands for November are the Flinstones, Bedroom Boys, Acoustic Jive and Dusk Till Dawn."

We ended up playing "name that tune" all night with Angeli, Julius and Pipo. After Pipo gamely sang, I asked him why he doesn't revive his band with **Christopher de Leon** et al. He sighed, "I wish I had time but having a regular gig is no joke. It can't be just a pastime. You really have to get up on stage every single night and sing your heart out."

Pipo does not look a day older than his Guy and Pip photos. He proclaimed, "I'm retarded," and laughed.

Angeli reminisced about her stint with the Music and Magic and regaled us with her "drugstore bag" filled with all sorts of medicines and ointments in case her beloved **Gary V** gets a diabetes attack. "It's not easy being the wife of a diabetic musical genius but Gary makes it worth it," she said.

It seemed like the bar's ambience had put us in a nostalgic mood. Rina and I were laughing all night as we looked back at how cheesy we were during our Junior Newswatch days. And what's new with her? Good news ought to be spread around so Rina must pardon me for squealing that she and her husband are on the verge of a reconciliation. She's also slated to do a movie comeback soon. As Jonn commented, "She's still as flawless as ever."

I left my good friend Korina pretty much to herself that night. I didn't want to intrude into her romantic evening with Paul. It's not every night that someone as busy as Korina can unwind away from public scrutiny. The formidable broadcast journalist took a back seat that night and Korina turned into a blushing teener dressed in a woman's clothes.

Joyce was dateless. I noticed that when she attends parties the sex goddess would rather dress down so as not to draw too much attention to herself. That says a lot about how secure she is about herself. I teased Joyce about her ex **Jay Manalo**. Didn't sparks fly during their recent movie together? She smiled. "It's totally over between us. No more bitterness, that's why we were able to work together smoothly. I'm happily unattached by choice for now." Judging from the happy faces in the star-studded fete, the fun virus in Amoeba is truly contagious.

Sud-Ouest

ALLIANCE Francaise de Manille, together with Rouge et Blanc, an up and coming importer of wines from the southwest of France, has organized one amazing evening of two events on Nov. 8 at Le Coude restaurant (AFM 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati).

Start the night with an authentic and delectable French dinner prepared by Le Souffle chef de cuisine **Marc Aubry**. Delicious specialties coming from the southwestern part of France will be found on the menu.

Tickets for the dinner cost P1,700 for AFM members and P1,900 for non-members.

If that doesn't whet your appetite, the night gets even more mouth-watering. Stick around for the second half of the Sud-Ouest event. From 10 p.m. onwards, savor an evening of jazz, blues and bossa nova music. Relax and enjoy a few drinks while listening to Brazilian guitarist **Paulo Froes**, as he jams live with AFM's very own **Philippe Bosquet** on the piano. Later on in the evening, Sud-Ouest will welcome a new blues-rock band, the Hot Mojo Club. Open to the public with no cover charge. As they say in gay Paris, "Laissez le bon temps rouler!"

Just asking

COULD it be true that **Assunta de Rossi**'s mom and sister **Alessandra** are wary of her impending marriage to Rep. **Jules Ledesma** because of his alleged flare-ups? An insider tipped me off that Assunta has not been too conscientious about her taping schedules because all it takes is one call from her fiance and off she goes scurrying home.

Is it true that **Miriam Quiambao**'s new paramour is a dashing mayor from Cebu? Will the beauty queen reign over the charming southern city soon?

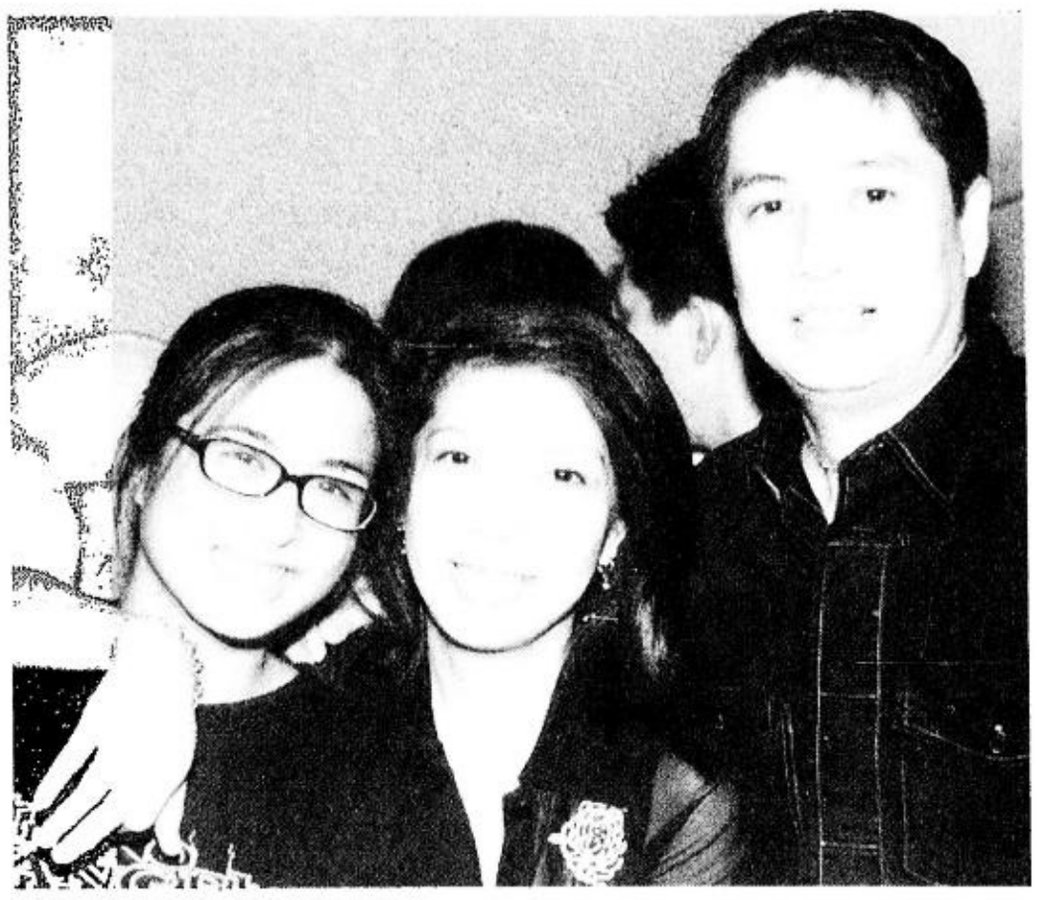
Personal

BONNE anniversaire to ma cherie soeur **Clara**. You will always be my baby sister no matter how tall you grow.

Happy birthday also to two of my sweetest and funkiest friends in the biz, **Tin-Tin Bersola** and **Pia Guanio**. Here's to our "Powder Puff Girls bonding" in ABS-CBN's make-up room as we get ready for our close-ups!

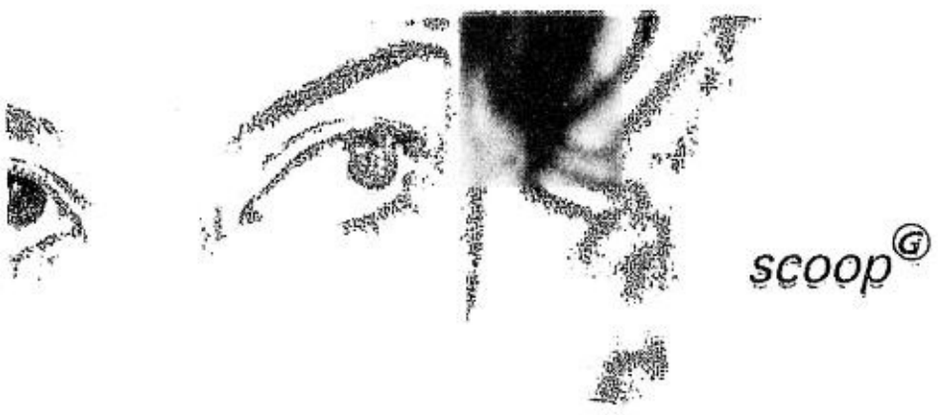
Birthday cheers to my round-the-clock amiga **Joy de la Rosa**.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com



JOYCE JIMENEZ, Jonn Santillan and moi.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA



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Freestyle in Cebu

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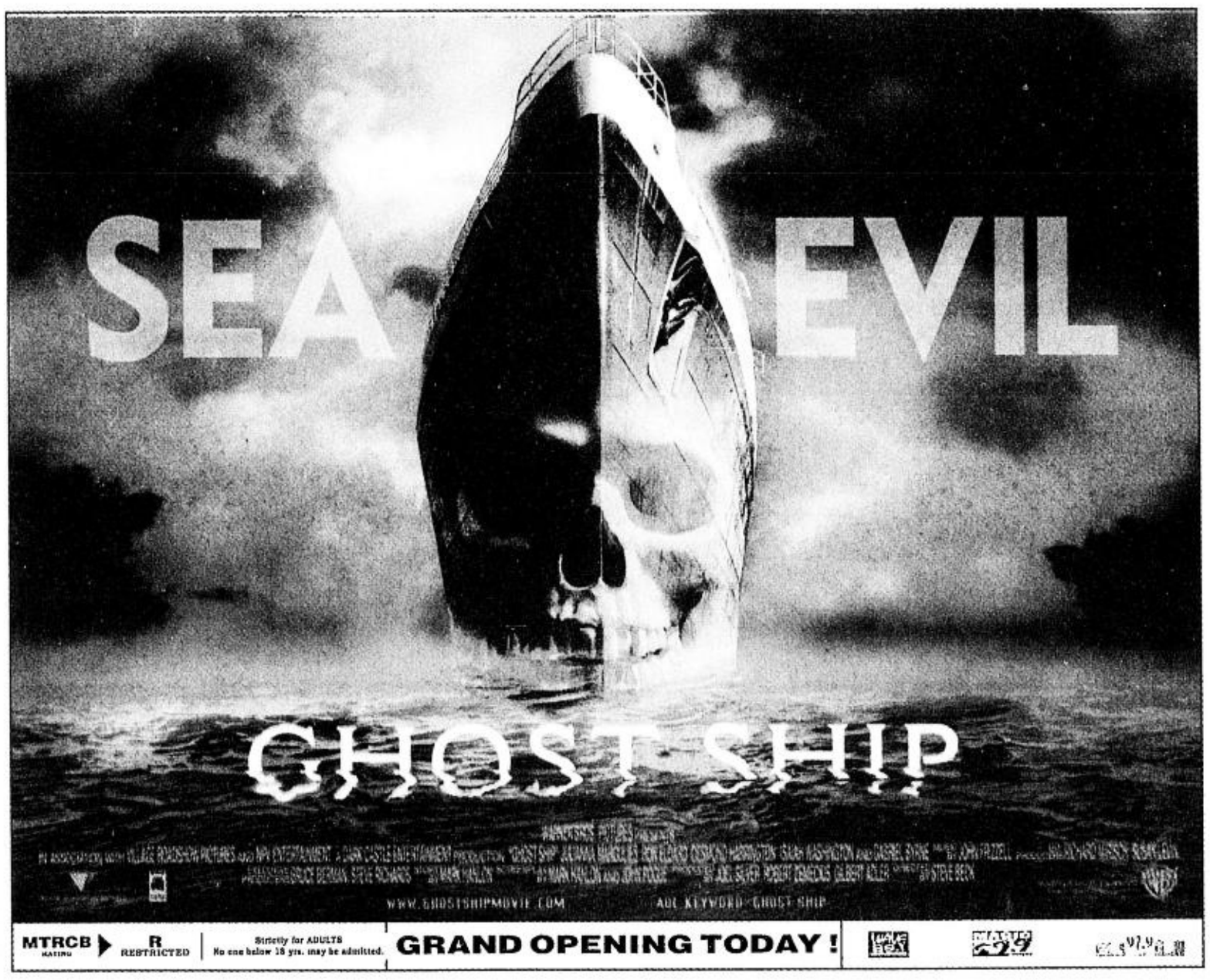

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THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE

In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award.

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"...a beautifully executed film that is remarkable on many, many levels."
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8 GHOST SHIP
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10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

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2 MR. DEEDS
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7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

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SM BICUTAN

1 WATCH OUT
2 FOR THE
3 OPENING ON
4 NOVEMBER 29, 2002

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1 WATCH OUT
2 FOR THE
3 OPENING ON
4 NOVEMBER 15, 2002

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Halloween at the Pen

LET LOOSE on Halloween night at Peninsula Manila's The Conservatory starting 6 tonight.

There will be an "After Hour Grind" from 6 to 9 p.m., where gentlemen can drink all the local beers and ladies can choose from a limited cocktail list for only P195++.

"Groove Nights" party will follow right after.

SHOWS

For a minimum consumable purchase of P300++, grind to the beat of Velocity in three power-packed sets.

Wear your wildest and wackiest Halloween costumes for a chance to win fabulous weekend stay for two at The Peninsula with a complimentary buffet breakfast at Neilsen's.

For inquiries, call 887-2888, 810-3456 or 812-3456, extensions 2989 and 2958.

Traffic Jam

A CONCERT featuring Traffic Jam and Nityalila will be one of the highlights of Heritage Park's "A Celebration of Life," 9 tonight at the memorial park's chapel grounds.

"A Celebration of Life" is an event that encourages people to enjoy life through a series of activities that focuses on fun, entertainment, family bonding and spiritual upliftment.

Catch Traffic Jam dish out songs from the '70s and '80s. Nityalila will sing a repertoire of folk, jazz and world music.

The Heritage Park is located in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, and is five minutes away from the Manila Polo Club and Forbes Park.

Fore more details on "A Celebration of Life," call 845-2341, 845-2342, 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112 or email sales@heritagepark.com.ph

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS / LAMAN
ODEON	GHOST SHIP
ODEON-2	BABAHA NG DUGO / KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
ROBEN	BOMBA QUEEN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MIB / INSOMNIA
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR-2	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
B	HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-2	GHOST SHIP
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	DESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
FUNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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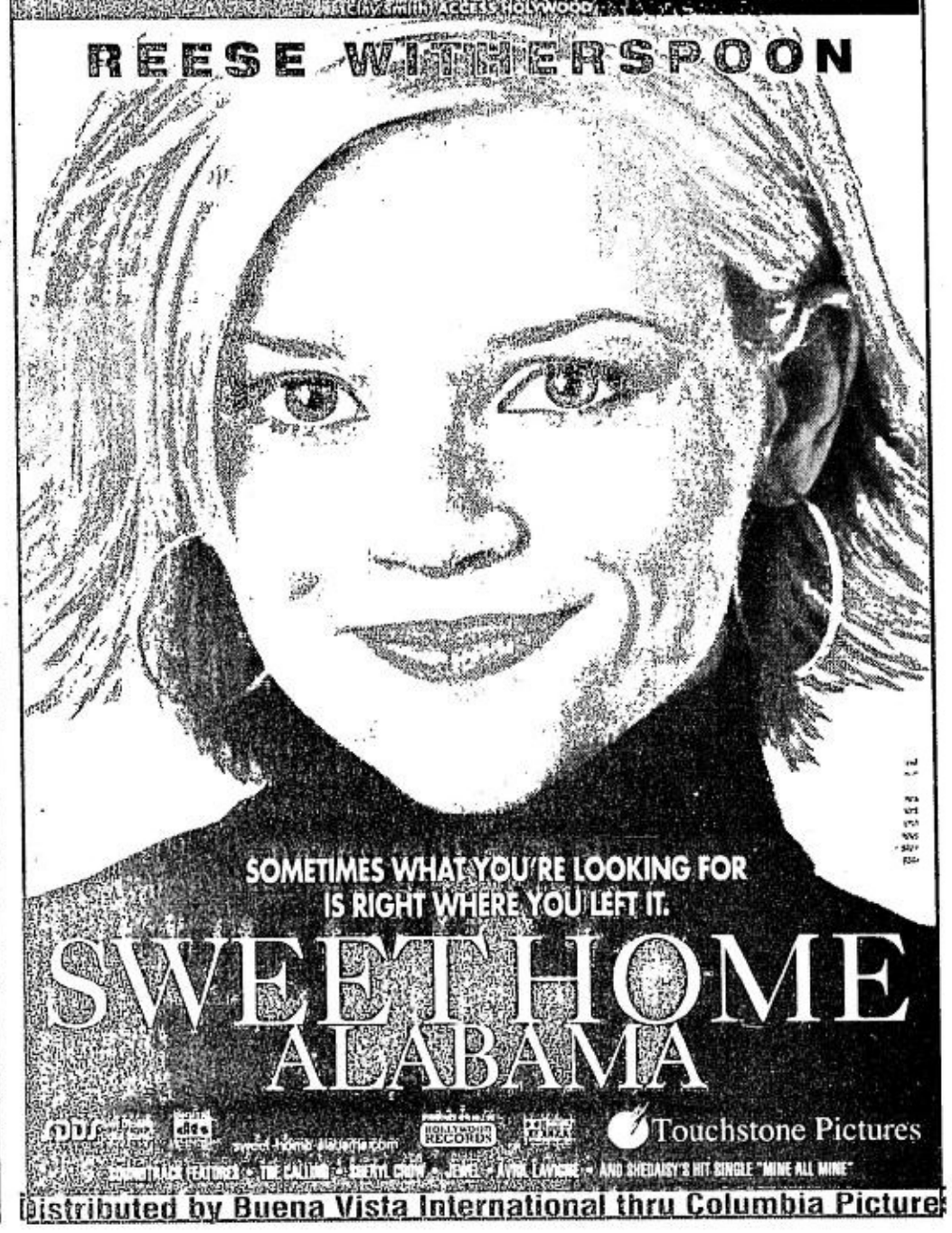

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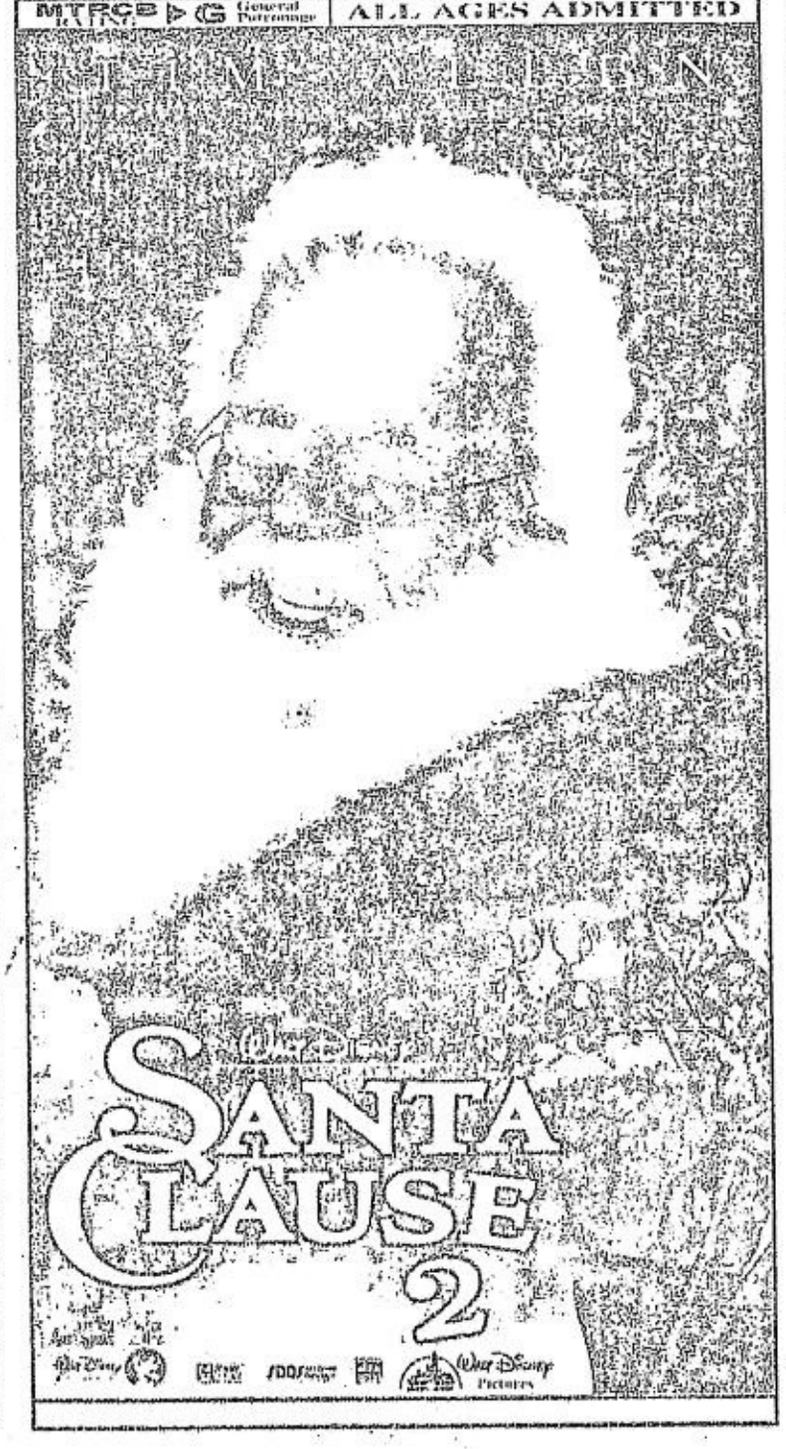

SANTA CLAUSE 2

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	G81 GREENBELT 1	G83 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
ALL GLORIETTA BOUTIQUE CINEMAS				
THE SANTA CLAUSE 2	1 THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 2 GHOST SHIP	THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	GHOST SHIP 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
SWEET HOME ALABAMA	RED DRAGON 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF	SWEET HOME ALABAMA 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
SINGSING NI LOLA	MR. DEEDS BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 8-9, 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30	GHOST SHIP
GHOST SHIP	SWEET HOME ALABAMA BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF		THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 RED DRAGON 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30	RED DRAGON THE SANTA CLAUSE 2

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The Ayala Crew — THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI — ALABANG — CEBU

Makati
October 31, Glorietta
Magic Show, 3 pm
Trick or Treat for Kids, 1 - 4 pm
October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
Green Lounge Halloween Ball

Alabang
October 30, 1 - 4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder

Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30, 8 pm
Food & Entertainment Center, Halloween Parties

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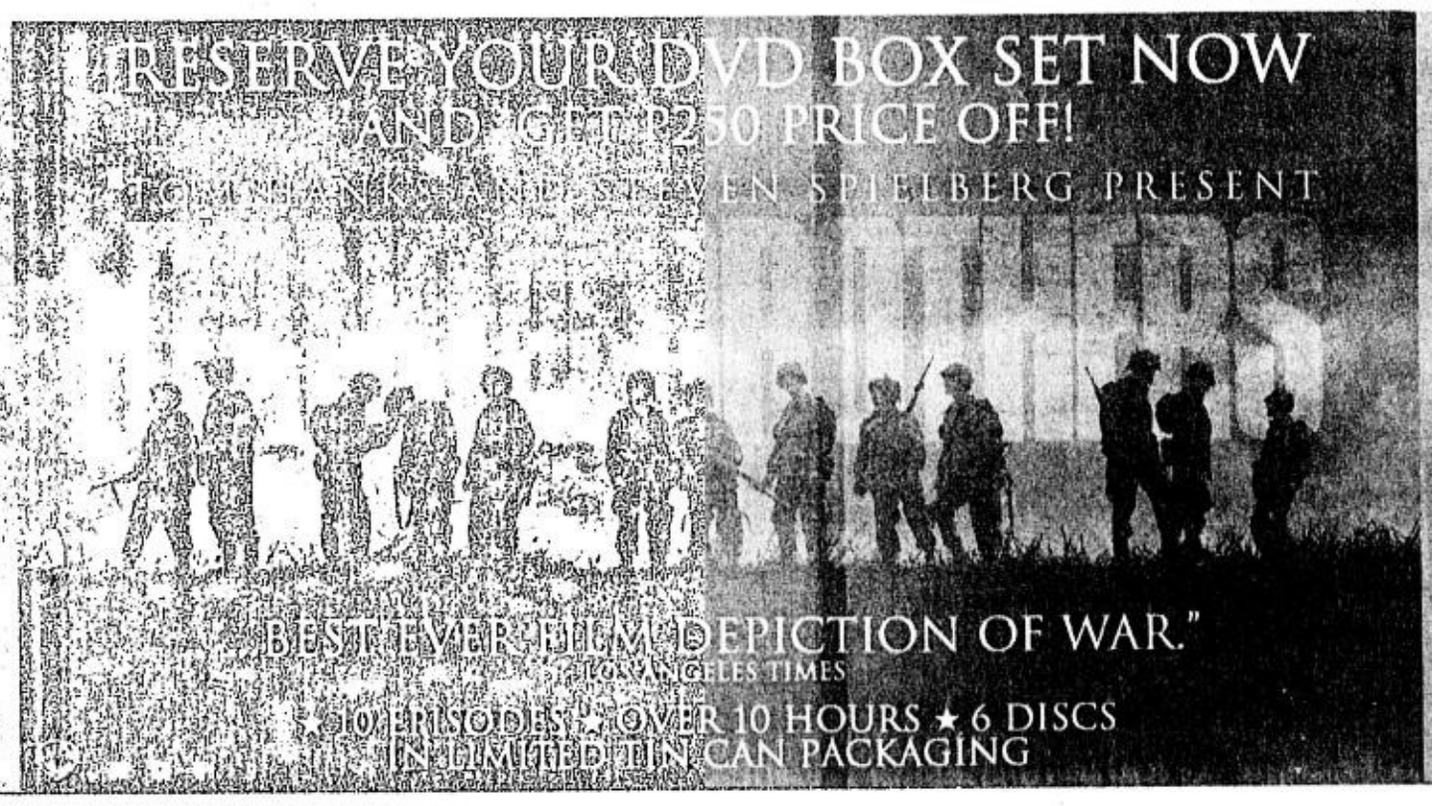

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Martin Celebrates 20 Years of Music with SMART

It's hard to believe that a man's voice can get better with age. You would think that after all the songs that have been sung, all the albums that have been recorded, and all the concerts that he's sold out, Martin Nievera would be lessening his workload. Nothing could be further from the truth. For this, Martin's 20th year in the entertainment industry, he's even picked up the pace by releasing a new album entitled "Chasing Time" that will be released across Southeast Asia and being the top pitch man for SMART.

So just how does Martin do it? How does he keep everything fresh after performing and selling out venue after venue? "Everything I do is new and exciting," he recently said at a press conference to launch "Chasing Time". Citing his signing as "The SMART Man", Martin said, "It's hard to believe and it's such an honor to be asked by the company."

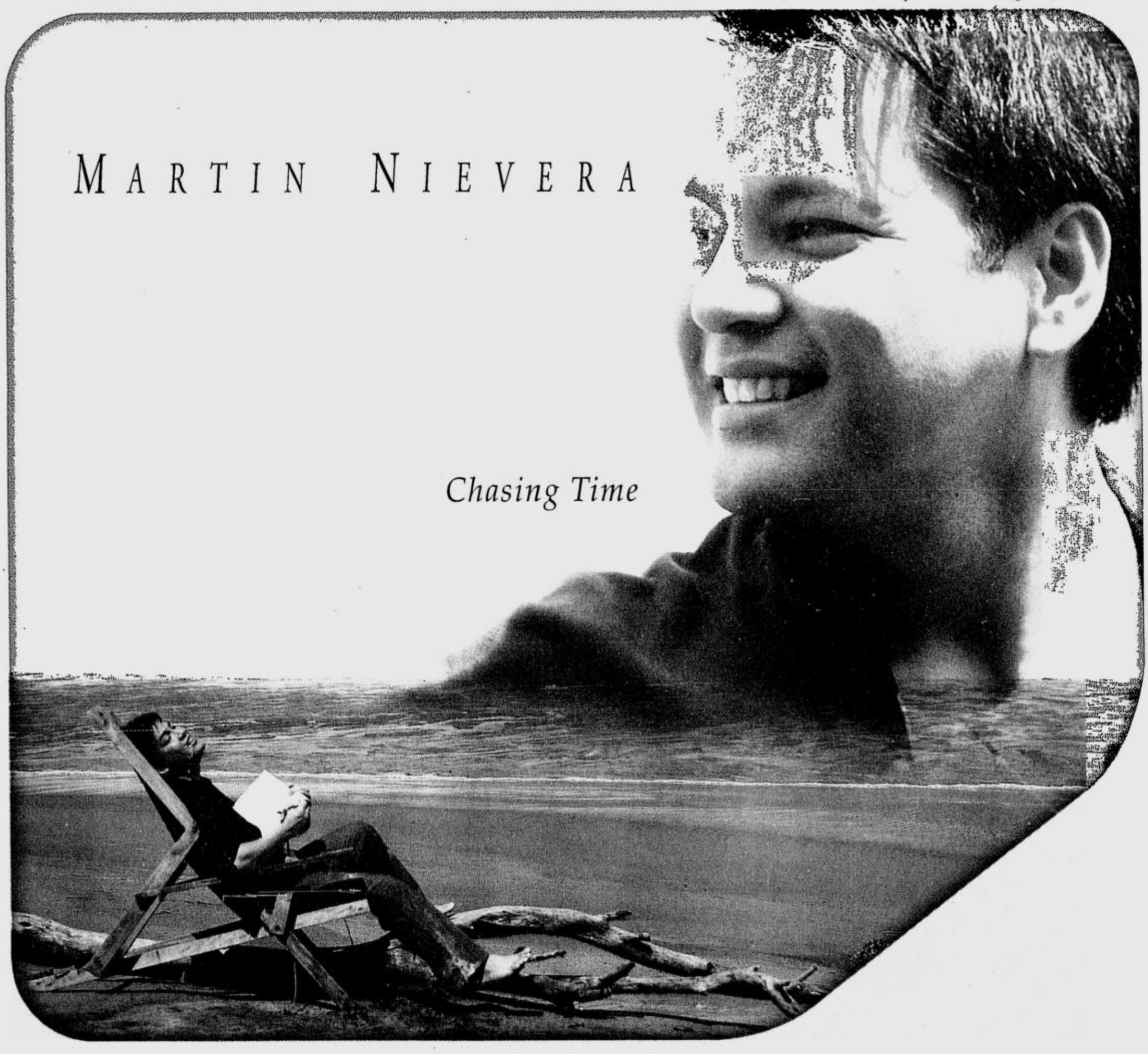
Surprisingly, Martin feels he has yet to reach his peak in his showbiz career. With "Chasing Time," he could have easily opted for a typical "Best of" compilation. But instead, Martin has chosen to give his fans something new for his anniversary album.

With the carrier single "Never Say Goodbye" composed by Grammy Award-winning R&B superstar Brian McKnight heating up the airwaves, Martin once more lends his unique voice to a new lineup of songs for you to cherish. McKnight also penned other potential hits for Martin entitled "Over," "All the Way," while singing with Martin in the duet "Thank You For Saving My Life." Other collaborators who wrote or arranged songs for this album include musicmakers Edith Gallardo, Moy Ortiz and Ben Escasa. Legendary Filipino composer George Canseco teamed up with longtime Martin favorite Louie Ocampo for one track, while new talents Ricky Sanchez and Andrei Estrada also lent a hand in making the album the instant classic that it has become.

As a bonus for Martin Nievera fans, SMART Communications is giving away free copies of the limited edition "Chasing Time" VCD to those who SIM swap to the new SMART 64K Super SIM at selected SM malls during Martin's album launch tour at SM Manila on Oct. 20, SM Bacoor on Nov. 18, SM Fairview on Nov. 19, SM Pampanga on Nov. 20, SM Southmall on Nov. 21, SM Megamall on Nov. 22, SM Cebu on Nov. 23, and at SM Davao on Nov. 24. And from October 21 to November 1, 2002, they can also be among the first 10 listeners of the day to SIM Swap at the following radio stations: Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, Monster Radio RX 93.1, and 93.9 iFM. Those interested in swapping their non-SMART SIM cards can visit the stations Monday to Friday, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, and from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

A career like Martin's is a unique one to say the least. He has endured with excellence and with the desire to still improve himself, even after 20 years of being at the top of his game. As Martin Nievera embarks on the next 20 or more years of his magical run, SMART is proud to say that they are with him every step of the way and the Madman couldn't possibly have a better partner.

Simply a limited offer



Featuring the single "Never Say Goodbye"

Visit the SMART station located at the "Chasing Time" event area in selected SM malls during the "Chasing Time" tour* and SWAP YOUR NON-SMART SIM card for a SMART 64K Super SIM to get a limited edition SMART "Chasing Time" VCD for FREE!

Featuring Martin Nievera's latest music video "Never Say Goodbye" from his "Chasing Time" album, as well as other special videos, it is certainly a premium addition to your collection.

*Catch the "Chasing Time" tour on:

- Oct. 20 at SM Manila
- Nov. 18 at SM Bacoor
- Nov. 19 at SM Fairview
- Nov. 20 at SM Pampanga
- Nov. 21 at SM Southmall
- Nov. 22 at SM Megamall
- Nov. 23 at SM Cebu
- Nov. 24 at SM Davao

You can also get this limited offer if you're among the first 10 listeners of the day to SIM Swap your non-SMART SIM at these radio stations**: Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, Monster Radio RX 93.1, and 93.9 iFM.

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Moody's keeps 'stable' rating for RP

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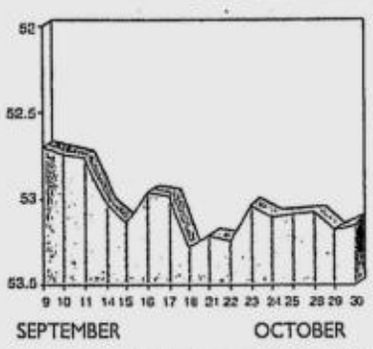

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up

SHARES ended mildly up yesterday in last-minute buying which traders attributed to month-end window dressing by some institutional investors.

STOCKS/ B2

MOODY'S Investors Service said yesterday it was keeping its stable credit outlook on the Philippines, saying the country's strong balance-of-payments position was a balancing factor to a ballooning budget deficit.

President Macapagal was also confident the Philippines would regain a stable ratings outlook from Standard and Poor's by pursuing fiscal reforms, her spokesperson said yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who is travelling with the President in the United States, told local radio by telephone that Ms Macapagal felt that the ratings agency might not have appreciated "the other aspects of our economy and the reforms we are doing for the country."

"Be that as it may, the President said she is still confident that she can work to regaining our stable rating," Bunye said.

Standard & Poor's on Tuesday lowered its outlook on the Philippines' credit ratings to negative, saying the government had temporarily lost control of public finances.

Moody's seemed more circumspect.

"Back in August, we issued a statement and we looked primarily at the fiscal factors. But at that time, we didn't see anything that would make us change our stable outlook," Thomas Byrne, Moody's lead analyst for Japan and Asia, said in a telephone interview with the local ANC television. "And the recent information that was released hasn't led us to change our conclusion that we made back then."

Moody's revised in February its credit outlook on the Philippines to stable from negative, an outlook that had been in place since October 2000.

"Exports have recovered, the official foreign exchange reserves are still high and workers inflows continue, in fact they are pretty good this year," Byrne said.

"These factors suggest that there is no direct link, at least not yet, and probably not foreseeable, with the budget problems and the balance of payments position."

The government reported a budget deficit of P166.47 billion in the first nine months of the year, exceeding an upwardly revised full-year target of 4 percent of gross domestic product or P155 billion.

The government is now looking at a budget deficit target this year of at most 4.5 percent of GDP or P175 billion.

Investment bank JP Morgan Chase has also criticized the decision of S&P to downgrade its Philippines rating outlook as "unwarranted and premature."

The decision, according to JP Morgan vice president David Fernandez, showed that the rating firm had an "extremely short fuse when it comes to the Philippines on fiscal issues."

The investment bank official acknowledged, however, that the fiscal turnout this year had been disappointing.

"But a slippage from a deficit of 4.1 percent of GDP last year to close to 5 percent this year did not appear enough to warrant an outlook change," Fernandez said.

"We think the S&P should have waited until early next year to assess the trends, especially after the critical April tax month," added the

MOODY'S/ B3

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HK-based investment firm wants to sell out of Bayantel

By Doris C. Dumlao

HONG KONG-BASED Asian Infrastructure Fund, invoking an earlier agreement with Benpres Holdings Corp., is requiring its Filipino partner to buy out its minority stake in cash-strapped Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp. for over $45.4 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Benpres corporate secretary Enrique Quiason said AIF had served Benpres a notice that it would exercise its option to require the Lopez firm to buy its class "A" shares in Bayantel. The put option on Bayantel was guaranteed by Benpres in a shareholders' agreement signed in 1995.

However, AIF is claiming a bigger number of shares and a higher price than those recognized by Benpres in its annual financial report for the year 2001, Quiason said.

"The balance sheet management plan of Benpres intends to address the settlement of the AIF put option," Quiason said.

Benpres sources said the company's only option was to restructure these obligations in line with its balance sheet management plan, noting that neither Bayantel nor Benpres was in position to redeem the shares at this point.

The size of AIF's stake covered by the put option is also under dispute.

Based on Benpres' estimates, the AIF stake covered by the option was only 6.3 percent, the original interest contributed when Bayantel started its operations in 1995.

However, AIF, together with other shareholders, made additional equity infusions after 1995 and AIF wanted Benpres to redeem those additional shares, the sources explained. Benpres, for its part, claimed that only the original 6.3-percent stake of AIF was covered by the put option deal.

When it invested in Bayantel, AIF thought it would have a readily available exit mechanism once the telecom company went public. But Bayantel, which was saddled with about $477 million in debts, was badly hit by the peso fall arising from the Asian currency turmoil in 1997 and was therefore unable to list as planned.

In lieu of the exit mechanism through an initial public offering, AIF's only other option is to exercise its right to press Benpres to redeem its shares.

In its annual report, Benpres said the value of the option by the minority stockholders in Bayantel should not be more than $52 million. The option holders, however, have indicated that the value of the option shares was much higher.

AIF, which is controlled by the American International Group, is a $1.08-billion fund established in 1994 to invest in infrastructure and related industries in Asia.

Based on AIF's portfolio disbursement as of July this year, the Philippines accounts for the biggest share of its investment exposure amounting to $175.9 million or 28.8 percent of AIF's entire basket.

To date, AIF's exposure in the Philippine telecom sector amounted to $100.6 million while it has another $75.3 million in investment in the local transportation sector.

Globe Telecom nets P4.3B in 9 months

By Abigail L. Ho

AYALA-OWNED Globe Telecom Inc. yesterday said it posted a 29-percent rise in its nine-month net profit, as the continued increase in its mobile phone subscriptions boosted revenues despite signs of a saturated wireless market.

The firm—controlled by local conglomerate Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecommunications and Deutsche Telekom AG—said its net profit in the year to September reached P4.3 billion. Profit in the same period last year was P3.35 billion.

The company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization also went up by 79 percent to P19.6 billion from a year ago.

Revenues hit a record high of P33.2 billion, 34 percent more than last year's level.

For the third quarter, alone, Globe registered a net income of P1.3 billion even after a P2.2-billion asset write-off related to the operational integration of the company's wireless network with that of its subsidiary Isla Communications Co. Inc.

Its subscriber base surged 48 percent to 6 million from year-ago level.

Despite analysts' forecasts of a general slowdown in the wireless market in terms of subscriber numbers and average revenue per subscriber, Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. remained optimistic that Globe would continue to post strong growth in the coming months.

"The growth in Globe's revenues and its wireless subscriber base in the third quarter makes us optimistic about the general outlook for the wireless market and the prospects for our company's continued strong performance," he said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

He added that the network integration project that started last month would put Globe in a better position to take advantage of the opportunities available to wireless telecommunications players, with the resulting "streamlined operations and improved efficiency."

NEW NTC COMMISSIONER
Armi Jane R. Borje, previously deputy commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission, was recently inducted by Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio (right) as commissioner of the NTC. She will take over the duties of outgoing Commissioner Eliseo M. Rio Jr. With Borje during the ceremony was her husband, Edgar P. Borje.

PLDT Q3 net income seen at P1B

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) was likely to have posted higher third-quarter net income than a year ago but with earnings overshadowed by a slowdown in new subscribers and an ownership row, analysts said.

They did not give specific estimates for the third-quarter results of the country's largest phone company due to be announced next Tuesday.

But they saw net income improved by continued revenue growth from PLDT's key cellular unit Smart Communications, which contributes more than 40 percent of total recurring income.

While analysts saw no immediate effect on earnings from a row between two of Asia's prominent business families and PLDT management over a key stake sale, they warned there could be a negative impact if the tension persisted.

They also cautioned that future earnings gains would be tempered by a further decline in net subscriber additions.

"Smart subscriber net additions for the second quarter at 243,000 was the lowest compared to the past six quarters," said BPI Securities telecom analyst Roberto Cano in a research report.

He said a first-half uptick in disconnection and flat average revenue per unit growth for prepaid Smart users—the vast majority—pointed to a possible slowing of revenues next year.

The firm's bread-and-butter fixed line revenue was unlikely to have shown any significant improvement in the quarter, said Martin Enrile, telecoms analyst for ATR Kim Eng securities.

"It's been on a declining trend and that should continue in the third and fourth quarters," Enrile said.

Declines in fixed line income could be offset by a further increase in revenues from data services and the Talk N Text brand operated by another cellular unit, Pilipino Telephone Corp., analysts said.

Ongoing cost reduction efforts, including capital expenditure, and the completion of refinancing for debt obligations stretching through to 2004 would also help the company's net income going forward. *Reuters*

BPI's Jan.-Sept. profit down 13% to P4B

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of the Philippines Islands, the country's second largest bank, said its profit in the first nine months of this year had dropped 13 percent to P4 billion as a result of the lower interest rate margins.

In a statement, BPI said that the P4-billion nine-month profit this year came after the bank provided P900 million in loss provisions.

The bank disclosed that net interest income contracted by 13 percent because of the overall decline in the interest rate level this year.

The fall in net interest income, however, was partially offset by the 9-percent increase in non-interest income.

Operating expenses grew by a "controlled rate" of 2 percent, the bank reported.

BPI said that its profit for the third quarter alone rose 18 percent to P1.3 billion against the P1.1-billion profit the bank recorded in the same period last year.

The Ayala-controlled universal bank said that the better third quarter performance was brought about by the 19-percent increase in non-interest income.

"Net interest income was 10 percent lower than last year but was offset by lower loss provisions, operating expenses and income taxes," BPI said.

The bank's total resources as of end-September stood at P403 billion, the same as the previous quarter.

BOI mediation team formed to address investors' woes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has formed a special mediation team to stem the rising number of foreign investors that were packing their bags to relocate to other countries due to bitter and protracted disputes with their labor unions.

In a statement, the BOI said the new team would be composed of intensively trained mediators that would provide dispute resolution services to registered companies and investors.

The BOI said the mediator team, to be led by BOI managing head Gregorio Domingo, was in response to reports of investors bringing their investments out of the country due to frustration over their misunderstanding with local partners, the slow grind of the bureaucracy and the decades-long court backlogs.

The team will be separate from the Quick Response Team formed by the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Labor and Employment last year after Japanese businessmen threatened to pull out of the country due to the growing restiveness of the country's labor unions.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II claimed that the QRT was successful in reconciling differences between management and the labor union based on the declining number of labor disputes over the last 12 months.

Roxas claimed the QRT has so far proven its effectiveness as the DTI and DOLE have been able to nip in the bud disturbances in the labor front by conducting visits and dialogues at the first sign of trouble.

In forming the new mediator team, Roxas said there was a need to acquire greater capacity for dispute resolution and provide investors with a friendlier and more responsive business climate to boost their confidence in the country.

Roxas blamed the investors' frustration on their unfamiliarity with the culture and working of the Philippine justice.

Stocks end up

From page B1

Traders said the sentiment in the market remained largely cautious after Standard & Poor's downgraded its credit outlook on the country and due to uncertainties locally and globally.

Globe Telecom, the country's second largest telecom firm, led gainers after it posted a higher-than-expected net income in the third quarter.

Globe reported a net income of P1.3 billion in the third quarter, higher than most market estimates of P1 billion for the period.

"It's the end of the month. There could be be some slight window dressing. Most of the buy orders came in toward the close," said Oliver Plana, analyst at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"I don't think there is any change as far as sentiment is concerned . . . There is a lot of cautiousness, particularly after the S&P downgrade," Plana said.

The Philippine stock index added 2.83 points or 0.27 percent to end at 1,048.53 points, the day's high.

Turnover climbed to P335.6 million from the previous day's P269.3 million. Losers outpaced gainers, 25 to 18, with 28 issues unchanged. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.75	18	18.75	118,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	182,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26.5	27	60,800
First E-Bank Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	407,300
Philippine National Bank	27	28	27	28	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	14,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	16,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1130	1130	1130	1130	150
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	910	910	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	410	397.5	410	89,560
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.8	3.55	3.8	87,000
Pilte!	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	1,280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	228	230	226	230	91,080
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0 01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15	15	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	19.75	20.25	611,400
Petron Corp.	1.44	1.56	1.44	1.56	1,919,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	272,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.3	170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	248,200
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	65,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	15,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	157,600
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	1,436,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.75	4,074,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	81,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	16,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.22	261,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	637,500
Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	74,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	630,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	730,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0 048	0.048	0.048	0 048	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	161,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.56	0.51	0.56	180,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	58,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.39	2,200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.38	0 37	0.38	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	249,900
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	13,575,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	6,830,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	2.04	1.94	2.02	1,521,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.028	0.028	0.02	0.021	4,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	526,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	2,895,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	100,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	940,900	25,077,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	68,528,840	220,329,710.00
PRO	31,867,000	93,528,560.00
Mining	1,400,000	254,000.00
OIL	11,000,000	32,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	113,736,740	339,221,495.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	409.50	DOWN 0.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,451.00	UP 4.04
PRO	466.61	UP 3.35
Mining	1,121.54	UP 2.34
OIL	1.31	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	612.94	DOWN 14.39
Composite	1,048.53	UP 2.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,349

DISCLOSURES

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. repurchased 4,300 shares at P32 per share on Oct. 29. The board also declared a cash dividend of P0.375 per share payable on Dec. 6 to all stockholders of record as of Nov. 15.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands announced the resignation of Alberto Villarosa as executive vice president and treasurer of the bank effective Oct. 29. Villarosa, according to Security Bank Corp., was elected member of its board and appointed senior executive vice president and chief operating officer effective Oct. 30.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.15 per common share due to all stockholders of record as of Nov. 14 and payable on Dec. 2.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc., pursuant to its buyback program, bought 87,000 shares of ILI at P1.54 per share and 66,000 shares of ILI B at P1.54 per share on Oct. 29.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. signed a loan agreement with the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. to provide a five-year loan facility in the amount of P600 million. The proceeds of the loan will be used to finance capital expenditures and existing debt.

* * *

AYALA Corp. will conduct an analysts' briefing at 3 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the South Room, Tower One, Makati City to discuss the company's financial and operating results for the first nine months of the year.

* * *

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting and rescheduled it to Jan. 14, 2003.

* * *

FIL-ESTATE Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 5 at 8:30 a.m. at Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 30, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.016673	1.000000	53.017000
Japan	Yen	0.008257	0.008122	0.430600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583164	1.557200	82.558100
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130364	0.128226	6.798200
Switzerland	Franc	0.682423	0.671231	35.586700
Canada	Dollar	0.650338	0.639672	33.913500
Singapore	Dollar	0.574392	0.564972	29.953100
Australia	Dollar	0.565982	0.556700	29.514600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.696890	2.652661	140.636100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271091	0.266645	14.136700
Brunei	Dollar	0.571486	0.562114	29.801600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023485	0.023100	1.224700
UAE	Dirham	0.276812	0.272272	14.435000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.983600	52.147500
Argentina	Peso	0.284782	0.280112	14.850700
Brazil	Real	0.265589	0.261233	13.849800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134502	0.132296	7.013900
India	Rupee	0.021045	0.020700	1.097500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267581	0.263193	13.953700
Mexico	New Peso	0.099840	0.098203	5.206400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493794	0.485696	25.750100
Norway	Kroner	0.135248	0.133030	7.052900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017305	0.017021	0.902400
South Africa	Rand	0.100981	0.099325	5.265900
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000821	0.043500
Sweden	Kroner	0.110000	0.108196	5.736200
Syria	Pound	0.023001	0.022624	1.199500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029282	0.028802	1.527000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000742	0.000730	0.038700

Banks raise only $250-M bridge loan for Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. yesterday said it was still expecting to raise a $400-million bridge loan from a group of banks led by Citibank N.A. despite the latter's announcement that it could provide only $250 million.

"What we expected is to receive $400 million and even if we do get such amount, we would still need more," Napocor acting president Roland Quilala said in an interview."

Quilala said the group of lenders included Citibank, Credit Lyonnais, Standard Chartered Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

Industry sources said the banks announced a syndication for only $250 million due to jitters resulting from a recent terrorist bombings in the country. This, however, could not be confirmed independently.

Quilala said the $400 million would partially cover the remainder of Napocor's 2002 financial requirements, $750 million or half of which has yet to be raised.

Napocor needs at least $1.5 billion for this year, but the government was able to raise only $750 million through bonds floated in the first quarter.

"The bridge loan will be used as part of Napocor's working capital," Quilala said. "That means it would cover our debt servicing requirements."

The official said the $400 million was not enough for the power firm's needs for the next two months and that Napocor still needed to raise more even if the amount had been secured.

"We are looking at paying the amount as soon as proceeds from a $750-million bond float (planned for November) come in," he said.

Over the weekend, a source privy to the matter said that the Napocor board of directors, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and the Monetary Board had given the go-ahead to pursue the bridge loan.

"The amount has in fact been secured and it is expected to be released in the second half of November," the source said.

SOME of the 300 Filipino employees of Intel Semiconductor Co. greeted President Macapagal during her visit to the company's fabrication plant in Sta. Clara, California. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Camacho to seek higher deficit target for 2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

ADMITTING that fiscal commitments this year and next were unrealistic, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he would ask the economic team to consider raising the budget deficit target for 2003 by about P20 billion.

"I will ask the DBCC (Development Budget Coordinating Committee) to review the targets for 2003 especially the revenues and, consequently, the deficit," Camacho said.

The finance chief admitted that the 2006 target to bring down the deficit to zero might have to be pushed back.

The government is asking Congress to approve a budget of P804 billion for 2003 and this consists of revenues worth P640.7 billion against expenditures of P782.8 billion, or a budget deficit of P142.1 billion (equivalent to 3.3 percent of gross domestic product).

Camacho said the deficit-to-GDP ratio might have to be raised to a level slightly below 4 percent. His own estimate is 3.5-3.8 percent.

Based on a projected GDP growth of 5 to 5.5 percent, a 3.8-percent deficit-to-GDP ratio would be about P160 billion.

But the proposed review of Camacho would not include other macroeconomic targets like the GDP and interest rates.

The DBCC is chaired by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin with Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo as members.

Boncodin is opposing any changes in the 2003 target at this point. She said that if there would be any review, it would have to take place toward the second half of 2003.

A review of 2003 revenue and deficit targets, Camacho admitted, has become necessary after the government failed to meet its commitments this year.

Collection of the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs, the agencies that collect 95 percent of the country's cash requirement yearly, sustained huge shortfalls this year, prompting the economic team to reduce their respective targets.

As a result, the budget deficit swelled to P166.4 billion as of September.

Moody's ...

From page B1

economist for JP Morgan.

Still, businessmen are bracing for a surge in interest rates following S&P's downgrade of the country's outlook.

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said the downgrade would have an adverse impact on interest rates as the government would be forced to tap the local credit market for its borrowings. "It would not be immediate but that is what we think would be the long-term trend."

The downgrade would make foreign debt more costly to the government which has to borrow more from the domestic market in order to make up for its weak revenue collections.

Luz said most businessmen were not surprised about the downgrade because they knew it was coming sooner or later based on the government's poor track record in meeting its deficit targets and revving up revenue collections.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion urged the government to be more decisive and focused in addressing the budget deficit.

"It should start setting up scenarios now to prepare for a worsening budget deficit and how to mitigate its impact on the economy. The government should not be groping in resolving its problems because this was the main reason for the downgrade—poor fiscal management," Concepcion said.

Luz warned that there was no quick fix to the budget deficit problem, which has cast a dark cloud on the country's economic prospects. He noted that the problem stemmed largely from its weak tax and duty collections because it has been able to keep its spending within budget.

Luz said the government should start implementing long-term solutions to its chronic deficit problems by lowering its costs (such as cutting down the number of employees and enhancing its procurement system) and improving revenue collections. *Clarissa S. Batino, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Inquirer wire reports*

Me and My Nokia

confessions of a certified mobile user

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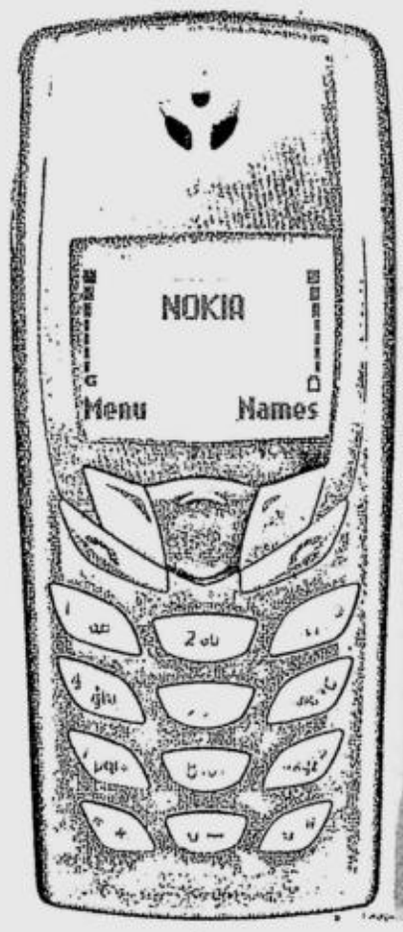

A product manager for one of the country's leading pharmaceutical companies, 26-year old Eva Datol always manages to look cool, calm and collected. At United Laboratories where she works, Eva may well be the epitome of the line of women's vitamins that she handles: empowered, in good health, and looking great.

"The beauty about working in a pharmaceutical company and managing these kinds of health care products is that you're not just into selling for profit, you're actually doing some noble cause because you're improving and advancing the health and welfare of society," Eva said.

The young executive is also proud of having successfully repositioned her brands to not only cater to the health needs of women, but appeal to their lifestyle demands as well. "To be a product manager is to be the commander in chief of the brand. I am involved in every step of the process...from product development to designing the packaging, from doing research among consumers to developing a powerful and effective advertising campaign that will build the business," she said.

Eva's dedication and passion for her job was recognized recently via a promotion. To celebrate, she decided to reward herself with a Nokia 6510. "I started to upgrade to the Nokia 6510 on the day I found out that I was going to be promoted to this position. I wanted to reward myself with something that was commensurate to my hard work. I was looking for a phone that somehow exuded confidence...which was exactly what I felt at the time of my promotion," Eva beamed.

Asked on how her phone helps her in her hectic work life, Eva said, "It's my executive partner." She added that she finds the Nokia 6510 "an effective blend of functionality, technology, style. It's chic and fits my lifestyle. It's a stylish way to conduct business."

Indeed, the Nokia 6510 is packed with big features in spite of its small size: a Calendar, Wallet feature, an integrated FM radio, mobile Internet services and a dynamic memory that accommodates some 500 names, 150 text messages and 150 Calendar Notes.

"The Calendar feature helps keep me organized, although I'm still keeping a manual journal, I find it very reliable. It's good for a workaholic like me," said Eva. "As a communications device, the Nokia 6510 is very effective because I'm a very mobile person. Part of my job is to go on field to feel the pulse of our market."

Topping it all for Eva is the phone's distinctive blue backlight that makes reading text messages even easier.

Singing, showbiz and a kiddie beauty pageant

Away from work, Eva is passionate about music, particularly singing. "I've been singing since I was a child. I have joined numerous contests," she said with a grin. Eva says she's also a "wedding singer," since most of her friends ask her to render a song or two during weddings. At work, she's a staple performer for the company's parties and gatherings.

"A possible sideline I'm considering is to be a lounge singer," Eva said. For a minute, looking at the successful young executive, one would think she's joking. Only when she hastens to add, "I'd like to take up formal voice lessons soon to master my craft," does one realize that she's absolutely serious.

At one time, showbusiness was an option. "I was a finalist for Little Miss Philippines," she laughed. So why didn't she pursue showbiz? "I was made to choose. It's so hard to balance both--studies and singing. I had to stop and I chose to study," Eva said. She eventually ended up being a salutatorian in high school and a dean's lister in college.

The Business Economics major from U.P., added, "those achievements already prove that choosing to focus on my studies was also worth it. Singing became something on the side that I do to de-stress."

Indeed, showbiz's loss is the pharmaceutical world's gain. But just like any woman her age, Eva also engages in a number of activities for the young and the restless: shopping, working out at the gym, or having coffee with friends.

A certified fashionista, style and balance are a must for Eva--all the way down to her phone. "The Nokia 6510 is a good balance for business and personal use. I like the fact that it's not too flashy, yet it's functional. It's something that I'm very proud to carry around with me."

ADVT.

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LLA 448 FA 347 3BR 3TB 2Car VV1 • 0917-4149898

QUEZON CITY

Novaliches 360T 9390299

ST. IGNATIUS 5 Riviera nr Eastwood P18M 7rms 7T&B 4car T-4370639

RIZAL

ANTIPOLO Dplex@P7.827ma clubhse, playgrnd 272-7813

LA-346m² 3br 3tb Near Antipolo Church Call 6341212

Nr. Sn Mateo 360T 9978394

Vermont Park Antipolo 239m² 2sty 5BR w/ bathtub attic 2aircon tel grge P5M 7801821 /5238481 L340/09165012454

SAN JUAN

★ Greenhills West ★ Infront Xavier Back ICA 8BR 7TB 9CG safety convenient Res. /Comm'l Cash Terms 722-1832

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Rush Sale Tagaytay Lots 500 /1000 sqm nr. Mall / SVD Pink Sister Call 8443450

BATANGAS

RushICanyonWoods Btngas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

CAVITE

★DASMA BUNGALOW la88 ba32 PAGIBIG 4104577

PROVINCIAL

RUSH FMLY LEAVING BACOOR CAV NR SM 2STY 6BR #09192386273

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.4M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

Kingswood Tower Pent 2 4br FF 135sqm • 0917-2429078

MANILA

SN ANDRES MLA NR SSHIWAY Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/maid P2.745M up 8903461 loc 34

Taft Avenue Near La Salle 1.5M FF 1BR 09196781363

PASIG

4Sale: Condo w/Parking, Prime Loc. 204sqm, 4br, 5cr, Fully Furnishd, All New Manila Luxury, Pasig. Dir. Buyers Only P9.7M (Neg.) DM 0917-5396780

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Fernandina 88 100sqm 5M 3br 2tb FF • 0917-2429078

★METRO GREEN VILLE la60 la50 amenities 4104577

Nr Ateneo 1.7M 80m² 3BR 3TB Pkg Slot 09196781363

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO 3br 3tb 2cg 3.5M 6873372

QUEZON CITY

XVILLE2 Townhse 2-Sty 2BIG BR / TB maidsrm grge P15T/mo 8906294

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS

AYALA LAND PROJECTS:
•ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE Condo Ready 4 Occupancy 5 yrs w/o Interest!
•ONE LEGAZPI PARK Condo No Downpayment
•AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES W/ FREE Golf SHARE!
•AYALA WESTGROVE HEIGHTS As low as 16T per month
Call: AGNES AYALA LAND SALES INC. 0917-8435382; 0917-8435355

LOT

MANILA

Castanos Sampaloc 330m² T-9356342/0917-8122904

MARIKINA

LA 1578sqm Creme cor. Tangerine • 0917-4149898

QUEZON CITY

Corinthian Lots 863 and 923sqm Tx 0917-4149898

★AMPARO 30m²@P2500 nr SM Lagro 4104577

Ind Nr Edsa 15T/m² 6453731

Villa Firenze Cullat 155m² Call 935-6342

RIZAL

TANAY 54m²@P1,500 highway lots 410-4577

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² nego w/fruit trees0916-3741571

PROVINCIAL

★METRO BAGUIO LA80 P3,000+ monthly 272-7813

The Right Place to Invest Cavite Light Industrial Park With 1.98 Hec. Commerical Blk. Phase 1 Ready for Move-in Phase II at Php. 1,600/sqm Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite Tel. 984-0198 / 635-8108 Merle Brokers are Welcome

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PASIG

LA 4001sqm East Grnhills 4BR 4TB Pool 0917-4149898

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K OXFORD SUITES FF ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW 10MINS.FR.ROCKWELL NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE. 7594091*7522580 0917-2551480

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR Salcedo Village, Makati, 43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF 7594091*7522580*7592335

Essensa - Luxury 3BR Fort Bonifacio, 290m² Available in FF or SF 7594091*7522580*7592335

new studio PBT up w/ elevator no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

MANILA

Burgundy Westbay Twr Comm'l units available Ideal 4 olc/clinic/logistics V.Cruz Taft-40-90m² 752-2580/303-0673/759-4802

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1631 Benito Nr PRC 5637241

3BR 2TB w/grge 8992148

MANILA

5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154506

MANDALUYONG

HWYHILS 2BR U/D 8212091

QUEZON CITY

1BR Ateneo/Eastwd 6815834

2BR Nr Sch 6,500 454-7134

2BR P7T / 1BR P6T 9283331

2BT2RM West Fview 6459934

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

•P5.5T 1BR Proj6 T-9267303

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

ROOM & BOARD

MANILA ROOM 8992148

BEDSPACE

DORM IN A CONDO-4K BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO ALSO AVAIL. 4RENT: 1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS 7522580*0917-8370184

Resdn'l/Clean/Furnis/Male/ 2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KAL 3FLRS 3610652

Office or Business Area Kapitolyo Call 6341212

PROME OFF CONCRETE BLDG AVENIDA NR RAON T7356516

RENT NOW Bakeshop / PIZZA in Kamagong Mkt 8991883

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

DAEWOO

95 DAEWOO RACER P100T 4191516

HYUNDAI

Grace Van 199T, H100 P225T fully reconditioned w/ bullbar seat cover, matting, dual a/c 1998 Starex 468T, 1995 Besta 2.7 P220T 7316550, 2001 Atoz 240T 7317984

KIA

96Besta 145T 7317984 99Pregio 345T 7317984/6550

MERCEDES

99 MB100 395T, A1 Cond. 7317984/6550

MITSUBISHI

95Lancer 165T 3306326

NISSAN

97 SENTRA SS 268T 7317984

TOYOTA

97 CAMRY T526-8048

OTHER CAR BRANDS

★ IMPORTED VAN★ MB100D•Pregio•Topic Grace•H100 360-9523

PAJERO SURF HI-TOWN ACE TERRANO SAFARI TROOPER PRADO DELICA ELF CANTER PORTER BONGO w/warranty A1 912-6976•0917-8342020

BUSES/TRUCKS

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CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

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L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MB100 Hiace Pregio 2973807

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX MB HIACE 8257135

URVAN, MB CAR 937-02-71

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 6966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

22T New Compil SR Imptd 7767507

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PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE ROLEX 5646593 5897041 5633742 0917-8473744

MISCELLANEOUS

Complete Bedroom Set with Coffee Table Call 6341212

Doghouse 3x3 FT 6341212

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

JR GAY STYLIST 7T-7.5T SALON ISABEL Tel 6319949

FEMALE

HAIR DRESSER For SM Megamall 0917-8398638

MIDWIFE single female 21-30yrs old Lying-in TTHS near Cainta Pasig 6822941

OFC & MKTG LEAH 4217569

MALE/FEMALE

A Modern & Hi-tech printing company is in need of Experienced or Newly Graduate Industrial Engineer and Production Supervisor call 3726452 to 54 Look for Louie

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

HRD Staff 09186532375 Selina

HRD STAFF 09204114147 DENNIS

OFC STAFF / 0919-7006392 ABBY

OFC STAFF 09173660641 FATIMA

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dia logue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no mat ter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen
- TRP & FPR

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit From: Enrique Del Rosario Jr & Family

Thank You Very Much Holy Spirit From: Gemma Santos & Family

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that estate of the late spouses VALENTE M. VILLANUEVA, SR. & LUCILA M. VILLANUEVA, has been extra-judicially settled w/ absolute sale, as per Doc.#110, Page 23, Book No. XI, Series of 2002 of Notary Public for Paranaque City Atty. Jose E. Marigundon, CPA.
(PDI-Oct. 17, 24 & 31, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late APOLONIA M. REYES was settled extrajudicially by the heirs as per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Adjudication per Doc. No. 630, Page No. 45, Book II, Series of 2002 before Atty Arturo M. Marin, Notary Public, Quezon City
(PDI-Oct.24,31&Nov.7,2002)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adult wear consign 3738821

Earn w/Travel 0917-8114249

TSHIRT SALE 0916-8329919

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

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Kodak

KODAK Philippines, Ltd. is the World's Leader in Imaging. As a provider of high value-added services, and both traditional and digital products and systems, Kodak excels not only in preserving memories but in recording, storing, transmitting and delivering image outputs.

Kodak is now inviting dynamic people to join their expanding organization.

Project Supervisor

Manages overall activities and operations of the assigned project with the objective of attaining profitable store and laboratory operations while delivering desired service levels as agreed with partners and customers. Also responsible for establishing good working relationship with key people in the project.

- Analytical and strategic thinker
- Excellent communication skills and can deal with all levels/positions
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs and general knowledge of computer hardware
- Responsible, team player, attention to detail and can work well under pressure
- Must have a good knowledge of project management and territory management in a service and operations environment
- Can implement programs/strategies with less supervision - decision maker
- Proactive, aggressive and innovative
- Can motivate a large team
- Process oriented and drives continuous improvement

Field Group Leader

Responsible for the overall operations in a specific territory to which he/she will be assigned. Provides leadership to printers/operators in his/her area of responsibility.

Qualifications:

- College graduate with technical background
- With 2-3 years work experience preferably from a service/manufacturing company
- Not more than 30 years old
- Preferably with frontline supervisory experience i.e. foreman, team leader, etc.
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs, general knowledge of computer hardware
- Must have a good knowledge of the operations

Admin Assistant

Performs all administrative work in the department which includes preparation of sales documents, billings, inventories, department purchases, production reports, personnel activities, and other related activities.

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- With 1-2 years administrative work
- Not more than 25 years old
- Well versed in business communications - letter and inter-office memo preparation
- Secretarial experience is an advantage

Roving Operator

Responsible for monitoring and maintaining the production output quality in all branches. Ensures proper and strict implementation of systems and procedures in equipment maintenance and operation. Fills the gap on manning level in all branches.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of at least two-year vocational course
- With 1-2 years technical work experience preferably from a service/manufacturing company
- Not more than 25 years old
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs, general knowledge of computer hardware
- Exposure to imaging/printing equipment is an advantage

Minilab Operator

Responsible for the day-to-day activities in the assigned branch and performs over-all lab optimal operations. Provides customers with quality prints and services. Serves as role model to other operators/ printers, newly hired and in other stores.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of at least a two-year vocational technical course
- with 0-1 year work experience preferably from a service/manufacturing company
- Not more than 25 years old
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs, general knowledge of computer hardware

Department Messenger

Provides immediate assistance to the operations department in the head office and all branches in its pick-up, delivery, courier and other field service requirements.

Qualifications:

- At least graduate of a two-year vocational technical course
- Not more than 25 years old
- Preferably with experience in messengerial work

If you believe you can take the challenge, send your comprehensive resumé and transcript of records and a 2x2 Kodak picture to:

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Deadline for submission of applications will be on November 8, 2002.

We will match your enthusiasm and drive with above industry benefits, incentives and training opportunities.

Hokei Subic Corporation
#40 Golden Future St. Cor. Arm High Ave. SBIP, SBFZ
Is in need of the following positions

MOLDING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR: Male, 26 to 35 years old, must be a licensed Mechanical Engineer. At least 5 years work experience in the same field, preferably can speak Mandarin or Fokien. Willing to work in Subic, and with good background in molding

INJECTION TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR: Male. 25 to 35 years old, must have 3 to 5 years working experience, can speak Mandarin or Fokien, with a good background in all kinds of machine, hardworking and willing to work in Subic.

MIS SUPERVISOR: Male/Female, 25 to 30 years old, a graduate of Computer Engineering Programming or ahy other 4-year computer couse. Knowledge in computer troubleshooting, computer Designing and programming Can speak Mandarin or Fokien, and willing to work in Subic.

ASST. PLANT MANAGER: Male/ Female, 25 to 40 years old, Industrial / Mechanical Engineer preferably graduate form any prestigious University/ College in Manila, must have at least 5 years working experience in a manufacturing firm, with good communication skills, career-oriented and with a good moral character and willing to work in Subic.

NOTICE OF MERGER

Notice is hereby given that the plan of merger of SVI Technologies, Inc. (the Surviving Corporation), with Adlink Information Network, Inc., SVI Billing Solutions, Inc. and SVI Clark, Inc. (the Absorbed Corporations) have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Parties opposed to the said merger must file their written opposition with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This announcement shall serve as notice to all parties concerned of the legal merger of the Surviving Corporation and the Absorbed Corporations.

(PDI - Oct. 31, 2002)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)
Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 551-3443/ 891-6423, Telefax 551-9587
www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority ("THE OWNER") invites all interested bidders to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Design, Supply, and Installation, including Test and Commissioning of two (2) 25 MVA Substation Expansion Projects** for the Bataan and Mactan Economic Zones. The **Approved Budget for the Contract** is Php 75.333 M.
2. Bidding Documents may be secured by interested bidders starting **28 October** to **05 November 2002** at the ***Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City,*** upon registration and payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).
3. To be registered with the OWNER, interested Bidders must submit the following documents (in case of photocopied documents, the original must be presented):
   a) DTI Registration of Business Name of SEC Registration Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines:
   b) Mayor's permit/ municipal license;
   c) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   d) Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP);
   e) Valid PCAB License; and
   f) Notarized affidavit certifying under oath that each documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
4. Submission of eligibility documents in four (4) copies must be received in sealed envelopes on or before 3:00 p.m. of **11 November 2002** and addressed to ***The Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City.***
5. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **20 November 2002** at 2:00 p.m. at the ***6th Floor Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St. Pasay City.***
6. ***The submission of bids will be on or before 12:00 noon of 25 November, 2002.*** All bids submitted shall be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' representatives at 2:00 p.m. of the same date. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security to be posted in favor of the OWNER and shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder any expense or loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding process.

(Sgd.) CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 24 & 31, 2002)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD, FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5285

INVITATION FOR REBID/BID

1. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY** of the following:
   a) **150 Joints 5"O OD Drill Pipe (FGK-10663-2)**
   b) **Five (5) pieces CS Gate Valve 18"O x 600#, RTJ (FGC-22631)**
2. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
3. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
   a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
4. PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o **Mr. Raffy S. Teylan**, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City. Tel. No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5285, Fax No. (632) 840-1834.
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting **October 2, 2002**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **one hundred pesos (Php100.00) Philippine currency for each set of tender documents**.
7. For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 17, 2002 (FGC-22631)**, at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.
8. The estimated date of award is on **November 30, 2002 (for both requirements)**.
9. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 p.m. of
   a) **November 5, 2002, (FGI-10663-R2)**
   b) **November 15, 2002, (FGC-22631)**
   Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.
10. PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
11. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) SERGIO ANTONIO F. APOSTOL
Chairman/President/C E O

(PDI - Oct. 31, 2002)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section V R.A. Act. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ENGLAND C. GO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ENGLATERA** to **ENGLAND** in the birth certificate of **ENGLATERA CUBIL GO** who was born on 03 September 1948 at **MARIHATAG, LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR** and whose parents are **PIO POLILIO GO** and **MACARIA SARCEDA CUBIL**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 01 November 2002.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Oct. 24 & 31, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites prospective bidders to apply for prequalification/eligibility for the **Replacement of Existing and Defective PICC - Screw Type, 500 Ton (TR) York Chiller Nos. 2 and 3.** Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, supervision and other incidentals required to perform: (a) dismantling of existing chiller nos. 2 and 3 and hauling to the designated storage; (b) modification of chiller foundation pads; (c) complete installation of new chillers; and (d) all items necessary to complete the work.

Chiller Specifications:

500 Ton Capacity Centrifugal Water Chiller using Refrigerant 123 (R123), 440 volts, 3 phase, 60 Hz complete with all components, fixtures/controllers and materials necessary for operation including among others (a) Hermetic or Open Type compressor-motor assy. & (b) Shell and Tube evaporator and condenser. Each unit must be supplied with unit mounted Variable Speed Drive Starter complete with voltage, current and temperature protection and must be adaptable to the existing chiller set-up in PICC and with total width per unit/frame of not more than 75 inches or maintain a clearance of at least twenty-six (26) inches between chiller units (new and old). All chiller components must be UL listed with minimum power factor of 0.95 at all loads and speeds.

Minimum requirement to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Local supplier should have locally supplied, installed, tested and commissioned at least one (1) similar unit such as centrifugal chiller using R123 having the same or larger capacity.
2.0 The bidder should have a net financial contracting capacity of at least a total of P13.80 Million computed as follows: NFCC = (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) * (K) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contract yet to be started).
3.0 Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance signed by the client's authorized signatories. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certification and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsify data on these documents or issue fake certifications.
4.0 If the bidder is not the manufacturer, the bidder should have had for the past 3 years (reckoned from January 2000) a distributorship/dealership contract with the foreign supplier/manufacturer of the chiller to be supplied for the project. The said contract should not expire before December 2004; otherwise, the local supplier should submit a notarized affidavit attesting that the contract shall be extended to a minimum of at least 1 year after the project has been completed and accepted by BSP/PICC. Submit a dated certification from the principal attesting these requirements.
5.0 The manufacturer of the chiller should be ISO 9000 certified.
6.0 Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit.
7.0 Y2001 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) with Y2001 Income Tax Return.
8.0 Brochure(s) of the item(s) to be offered indicating the model no. and all other necessary information for evaluation purposes.
9.0 Warranty:
   * One year from Start-up or 18 months from shipment whichever comes first for parts including labor.
   * Five years for replacement of compressor, including materials and labor.

Prequalification Statements/Documents may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A, Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance is on **October 30 to November 11, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn.** Cost of form is two hundred pesos per set (P200.00/set). Deadline of submission of Prequalification Documents is on **November 18, 2002.**

Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility shall be issued on **December 2, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn.** at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of **Bid/Tender Documents** to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P500.00/set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at tel. no. **524-7011 local 3143.**

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN QUINTOS, JR.
Co-Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 31 & Nov. 9, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILTY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FORKLIFT, 15 TON for the SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY.**

The approved budget for this contact is **P4,320,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **November 15, 2002, 1:30 p.m.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **November 4, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **December 3, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at Telephone Nos. 561-6098 or 563-9402.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Oct. 31 & Nov. 7, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PROTOCOL ANALYZERS** for the **BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P 4,043,520.00**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-bid Conference** that will be held on **November 15, 2002, 9:30 a.m.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **November 4, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **December 3, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 561-6098 or 563-9402.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – Oct. 31 & Nov. 7, 2002)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
PNPC Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47 loc. 2101-2104/ 840 2024
Fax Nos. (632) 840 1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested suppliers and contractors to apply for eligibility for the following:

Product Commodities:	Contracting Services:
Automobiles	Construction Services
Books	Foreign Travel Assistance
Communication Equipment	Forwarding and Custom Brokerage
Computers	General Manpower and Janitorial Services
Corporate Giveaways	IT Related Services
Drilling Chemicals	Medical Insurance
Electrical Supplies	Oil and Gas Drilling Services
Hardware	Photocopying Services
Industrial Chemicals	Security Services
Industrial Equipment and Supplies	Technical Consultancy
Laboratory Chemicals	Vehicle Rental
Laboratory Equipment	
Machinery Parts	
Mobile Phones and Accessories	
Office Equipment and Supplies	
Office Furniture	
Printed Forms	

In line with this, applicants are invited to attend the Eligibility Conference which will be conducted on **November 7, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Mini Theater, 7th Floor, PNOC Bldg., 6 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.** Registration starts at **9:00 a.m.** Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements will be set during the Eligibility Conference.

Moreover, applicants must confirm attendance at least a week before the schedule of the conference due to limited seats. Eligibility Documents shall be available for issuance during the Eligibility Conference upon registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Hundred (PHP 200.00). For reservation, please contact **Ms. Emeline C. Corona** at tel. nos. **840-2024 / 893-1320 / 893-6001 local 2103.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all eligibility documents or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such eligibility documents or to endorse for accreditation any applicant/s whose eligibility document/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted at DBM Website: www.procurementservices.org.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – Oct. 31, 2002)

Trans Co.

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Regional Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-11D

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: November 12 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 UNIT	LONG WAVE LENGTH INFRA DIGITIZER	3DII-2002-164
A2	2 SETS	AIR BREAK SWITCH	A1-02-228
A3	3 SETS	SURGE ARRESTER	3ASS-02-126

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A1 – November 04, 2002; 10:00 AM – at SLT Bidding Room
2) A2 – November 04, 2002; 11:00 AM – at SLT Bidding Room
3) A3 – November 04, 2002; 2:00 PM – at SLT Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting October 25, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI - Oct. 31, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
PROCUREMENT SERVICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILTY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PASSENGER ELEVATOR FOR THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P 10,861,824.00**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **November 8, 2002, 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **October 24, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **November 26, 2002 at 9:30 A.M.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos 561-60-98 or 563-94-02.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 31, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of
CESAR I. DEL MUNDO
Who passed away on October 31, 2001

Mass will be celebrated
at St. Hyacinth Parish
San Jacinto, Pangasinan
at 6:30 a.m.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Atty. Saturnino A. Pacubas Sr.

San Jose City, Nueva Ecija at Paco, Manila

Sumakabilang Buhay sa gulang na 81
Noong Oktubre 26, 2002 sa Stamford, CT. USA.

Ang nagmamahal at naminimighating kabiyak **Rosa C. Samson**; mga anak **Mariquit, Somi, Melvi, Carleo** at **Jojo**; mga manugang **Ruben, Paul, Aurora** at **Beth**; mga minumutyang apo **Paolo, K-ann, Crystal, Myla, Jojo, Justin, Jesseal, Josh, Marierose, Germaine** at **Mara** ay humihiling ng panalangin sa inyo para sa ikaluluwalhati ng kanyang kaluluwa sa sinapupunan ng Maykapal.

Ibuburol siya sa Don Bosco Chapel, Makati mula Sabado, Nobyembre 2 hanggang Martes, Nobyembre 5. Ang Misa ay araw-araw tuwing ika-anim ng gabi. Magkakaroon ng *necrological service* pagkatapos ng Misa sa Lunes, Nobyembre 4.

Aalis sa Don Bosco papunta sa Imus, Cavite sa Miyerkules, Nobyembre 6, ika-12 ng tanghali. Magkakaroon ng Misa sa katedral ng Imus sa ika-12 ng hapon. Pagkatapos ay ihahatid sa huling hantungan niya sa libingan ng Imus.

Maraming Salamat.

"In My Father's house are many rooms
I am going there to prepare a place for you
I will come back and take you to be with Me
That you may also be where I am".
John 14:2-3

LOURDES LIMJOCO GUIYAB

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 29, 2002
She was 72 years old.

Her beloved husband **Romy**; children and their spouses **Joey** & **Rose**, **Eugene, Dodgie, Cecile** & **Alfred**; grandchildren **Aldo** and **Camille**; family and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 3, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Santuario de San Antonio.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
Tel. Numbers 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
845-2341 or 845-2342
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director

GLORIA HIZON RODRIGUEZ VDA. DE GUANZON

(WIFE OF THE LATE CONRADO LILLES GUANZON)

OF

San Fernando, Pampanga and Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
On October 29, 2002

Her bereaved children **Leticia** (†) and **Gabino de Leon Jr.**; **Edwin Guanzon** and **Agnes Arceo**; **Dr. Probo** and **Maryann Castillo**; **Armando** and **Virginia Cordova**; **Olivia**; **Trinidad**; **Mario** and **Evelyn Magat**; **Richard** and **Cecilia Palomares**; brothers and sister **Virgilio** (†), **Leticia** (†), **Rene** (†), **Jose** and **Gerry Rodriguez**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Carmen del Rosario-Rodriguez**, **Felipe Rivera** (†), **Atty. Isidro Calma** (†), **Neuita Moreno-Rodriguez** (†), **Erlinda (Erlie) Gonzalez-Rodriguez**, **Aurora (Auring) Angeles-Rodriguez** (†), **Milagros (Anging) Guanzon Tinio** (†) and **Manuel (Manolo) Tinio** (†), **Agapito (Pitong)** (†) and **Joaquina (Quina) Luelo-Guanzon**, **Augusto (Godong)** (†) and **Dolores (Lolita) Alandy-Guanzon** (†), **Flora (Itang) Guanzon-Ricafort** (†) and **Jose Maria Ricafort Jr. (Pitong)** (†), **Oscar (Caring)** (†) and **Isabel** (†) **Sicat-Guanzon**, **Paulino (Nonong)** (†) and **Rosario Bacani-Guanzon**, **Manuel (Maning)** (†) and **Luz Villamor-Guanzon** and **Florencia (Flory) Guanzon-Coronel** and **Eduardo Coronel**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Church, Alabang Town Center Muntinlupa City. Interment will be on November 5, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Church.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."
Psalm 23

JUDGE RAMON AM TORRES

Of Baybay, Leyte and Cebu City

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 29, 2002
at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Mercedes Abesamis Torres**; children **Sylvia**, **Ramon Jr.** & **Magdalena**, **Gerardo** & **Nelly**, **Yolanda** & **Antonio Cablitas**, **Bernardo III** & **Maria Pepita**, **Jonathan** & **Sonia**, **Patricia**, **Merceditas** & **Fred Ignacio**; together with brothers **Bernardo Jr.** (†), **Antonio**; sisters **Adelaida**, **Amparo** & **Alicia**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sacred Heart Parish Mortuary on D. Jakosalem Street, Cebu City and will be brought to Baybay, Leyte on Friday, November 1, 2002.

Interment will be on November 5, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK
PARAÑAQUE
Wishes to announce its promo for
FAMILY ESTATES & MEMORIAL COURTS
15% Down payment
0% interest 1 year to pay
Also available premium lawn lots
Look for Beck C. Soriano and Tina de Guzman
8103594 8182083 8180785 8125679 8180689

REFUGIO RIBAYA REDITO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 27, 2002 at the age of 80.

Her beloved husband, **Domingo** (†);
Children: **Joselina**; **Rommel** & **Imelda**;
Magdalena & **Medardo**; **Marie**; **Pete** & **Bengie** (†);
Grandchildren: **Eric** & **Malla**; **Alex**;
Miriam & **Mildred**; **Mae**;
Mark, Cherisse, Diana & **Dane**

request for your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at the Redito's residence at Iraya Sur, Oas, Albay.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 2, 2002 at the Oas Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER
the 7th **Death Anniversary**
of our beloved DADDY

JOSE "PEPITO" TORRES

Who joined his Creator on October 31, 1995

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, October 31, 2002

Carmelite Monastery of the Child Jesus ..... 6:30 AM
Gilmor
Society of the Divine Word ..... 6:00 AM
Kamuning, Quezon City
Divine Word Mission Seminary ..... 6:30 AM
E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City
St. John the Baptist Parish ..... 7:15 AM
Pinaglabanan Church
Santuario de Santo Cristo Parish Church ..... 7:30 AM
San Juan, Metro Manila
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy ..... 6:00 AM
Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church ..... 6:15 AM
Forbes Park, Makati City
St. Jerome the Parish Church ..... 6:00 AM
Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa
St. James Parish Church ..... 6:00 AM
Ayala-Alabang

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1085; (047) 222-4512, (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City
Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote, Alabang, Las Piñas
Tels. 873-0507, 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City
Tels. 890-3556, 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3375, 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Umishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711, 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City
Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalinaya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11, 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque
Tels. 820-1592, 825-9947, 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Trona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tahong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 515-6629, 522-8783, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City, Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9882, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 843-8838 to 40, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2014
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8236, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Lorello St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila
Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

"Sa piling ni Nanay langit ang buhay."

MARCELINA BARRION SALAZAR

(Lola Cheling)

of Taal, Batangas and Fairview, Quezon City

beloved wife of the late ***DR. FELINO OROSA SALAZAR***
passed away on October 29, 2002 at the age of 100.

Her bereaved children **MARINA & RAMON LEYRAN, JOSIE & RIZ DE ALA, ERNIE & MALU REYES, LINDA & FRANK MCGINTY, EDITH & WILLIE OKADA**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren, her nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park Parañaque City on November 5, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Instead of flowers, your donations to the J M BARRION FOUNDATION INC. will be appreciated.

In Loving Memory
On the
3rd Death Anniversary
of

RAFAEL R. REDITO

October 24, 1941-October 31, 1999

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Miraculous Medal National Shrine Parish	(Oct. 23-Oct. 31)	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish	(Oct. 31)	6:00 p.m.
Santissimo Rosario Parish	(Oct. 31)	12:00 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	(Oct. 31)	12:00 p.m.
		5:00 p.m.

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Seatbelt innovator joins inventors' hall of fame

By Charles E. Buban

THE INVENTOR of the three-point lap/shoulder safety belt is now a National Inventors' Hall of Famer. Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was recently honored as one of the 16 inductees for this year's National Inventors Hall of Fame.

He joins an impressive roster of inventors that the NIHF has elected since 1973 including Alexander Graham Bell (telephone), Orville and Wilbur Wright (flying machine), and Thomas Alva Edison (electric lamp).

The NIHF each year celebrates invention by honoring the men and women who have changed the way we live through their patented technologies that save lives and make human, social and economic progress possible. Winners receive a medal and recognition at the hall of fame's museum in Akron, Ohio.

Bohlin was recruited as a safety engineer by Swedish carmaker Volvo in 1958 where he served as its chief of the Automotive Safety Department and Interior Design from 1959 to 1969. It was during these years when his breakthrough innovation came with the realization that both the upper and the lower body must be held securely in place with one strap across the chest and one across the hips, with the joint for the two belts located just next to the occupant's hip.

In 1962 Bohlin came up with the three-point automobile seatbelt, a standard safety device in most cars that is credited to save up to a million lives worldwide.

SEATBELT innovator Bohlin

The patent was issued on July 10.

Aerospace background

Before joining Volvo, he worked with Saab Aircraft Co. as its design engineer where he was in charge of the development of ejection seats and pilot rescue systems for supersonic aircraft. It was here where Bohlin had seen the stresses that a human body undergoes in high-speed crash situations, and he understood the limitations of restraint devices, particularly those that were cumbersome, uncomfortable and difficult to use.

When he arrived at Volvo he initiated and managed its Traffic Accident Research Group, which included multidisciplinary accident investigation teams for cars as well as for trucks. His paper, "A Statistical Analysis of 28,000 Accidents with Emphasis on Occupant Restraint Value," was presented at the 11th Stapp Car Crash Conference in 1967 and played a decisive role in the decision by the US National Highway Safety Bureau to implement a regulation that would require the front outboard seating positions in passenger cars to be equipped with three-point lap/shoulder belts.

He was honored at the International Patent Conference in Munich in 1985 when the West German Patent Office selected the patent for the Volvo three-point lap/shoulder seatbelt as one of the eight most important patents (the eight patents that had done the most for humanity) issued by that office during its first 100 years of existence.

Bohlin's induction to the NIHF may be considered very prestigious. Founded in 1973 by the National Council of Intellectual Property Attorneys and United States Patent and Trademark Office, the NIHF has become the premier not-for-profit organization in the US dedicated to fostering and recognizing creativity and invention. It is best known for its annual induction ceremony, one of the highest profile invention events in the world.

To date, the NIHF has honored 168 individuals, mostly posthumous, for their significant inventions. Receiving the awards for Bohlin, who died the same day (Sept. 27) the award was given, were his sons Gunnar and Jonas. Bohlin was 82.

Seatbelt advocate

Bohlin, an advocate for seatbelt safety, is proud every time he hears that a seatbelt saved a life. His work to convince the US public to accept seatbelts is part of the reason they are mandated in the country's 49 states today.

Initially seatbelts were standard equipment only for front seats, but they have since been installed in the rear seats as well.

In one of the interviews he said his design work is not only safer but comfortable as well. It was an elegant solution, so simple that a person could buckle up with just one hand and be comfortable in the process.

The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that for the year 2000, safety belt usage in the US reached 85 percent, preventing 102,158 injuries, saving 4,194 lives and $6.7 billion—and that is just in the US. No similar data are available in the Philippines.

Fresh-looking cars push sales

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DID you ever wonder why car manufacturers give their products a facelift every year until the time comes for an all-new, totally redesigned model? The facelift may consist of a new radiator grille, different lights, bigger wheels, a spoiler, skirts, a sunroof or a new body color stamped as "Limited Edition." Or it could be an interior makeover with the addition of a VCD entertainment system, leather seats or an MD/CD/MP3 player as standard equipment.

Automakers scramble to give their cars new face value every year because in the fiercely competitive car market, fresh new models are key to success. Take the case of Nissan Motor Co., which just a few years ago was mired in debt and nearly bankrupt. Earlier this month, Nissan posted a record six-month profit as sales rose 12.1 percent in Japan and 8.3 percent in the United States although, unlike General Motors and Ford, Nissan did not offer cash incentives to US buyers.

Fresh product line

Nissan's CEO, Carlos Ghosn of Renault S.A. (which acquired 44 percent of Nissan when it was sinking), succeeded in turning around Japan's No. 3 carmaker not only by cutting costs but also by freshening its product line. In the first half of the financial year, Nissan introduced 11 new models around the world such as its new Z sports car, which is selling well in North America and its new March subcompact, which is a hit with young motorists. In the next six months, Nissan is scheduled to roll out a dozen more models, such as a new sport utility vehicle, the Murano, and three new Infiniti models before March 31. In fact, of Japan's Big Three, Nissan has the most new products.

Over here, the 2003 Nissan Frontier pickup was launched last Monday, six months after the introduction of the Nissan QR-V minivan in April and the earlier launchings of the 2002 Nissan Patrol SUV and 2002 Cefiro. The intro of another full-sized Nissan SUV, the X-Trail, is anticipated in Manila next year.

The outlook is not as rosy for Nissan's worthy competitor, Isuzu Motors Ltd., in the US, where Isuzu is pulling out of a factory it jointly owns with Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., the manufacturer of Subaru cars. Isuzu said last Friday it expected to post its fourth straight annual loss. In the US, sales of Isuzu SUVs plunged 38 percent in the first nine months of 2002 as the company failed to release any new models. In contrast, Honda Motor Co.'s light truck sales in the US surged 47 percent between July and September. Mostly new CR-Vs, perhaps?

More new cars, trucks

Meanwhile, among Detroi's Big Three, Ford's sales of cars and trucks were down 6.8 percent from a year earlier while GM and the Chrysler unit of DaimlerChrysler AG gained slightly. An auto industry consultant in New Jersey said that with almost no new vehicles to roll out until late next year, Ford's sales declines are bound to continue. Ford stock has fallen 60 percent since May. Critics say that what Ford still lacks and needs are more new cars and trucks that people want to buy, although CEO William Clay Ford, who is trying to turn the company around after a $5.4 billion loss last year, says he wants to introduce 60 new or redesigned cars and trucks over the next three years. For starters, the F-Series pickup, the best-selling US car and truck line, will be redesigned in 2003.

Both Ford and GM have to contend with fresh-looking cars, SUVs and pickups flooding the market from Japanese and Korean competitors who have gained an extra advantage through devalued currencies and aggressive marketing strategies. Toyota and Honda led gains in overseas production as sales of their cars rose in the US and Europe. All of Japan's top five automakers—Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Mitsubishi and Mazda—increased global production in September. Hyundai Motor Co. of South Korea is cornering the lower end of the US market by offering the lowest-priced vehicles and a 10-year, 100,000-mile warranty. At the high end of the global market, BMW is consolidating its position as the biggest manufacturer of premium automobiles by producing a large number of new cars. Over the next six years, the BMW Group will introduce 20 new models including a new Rolls-Royce, a new BMW 5-Series, 6-Series, 1-Series (to vie with the Mercedes A-Class) and the X3, a compact version of the BMW X5 Sport Activity Vehicle.

To paraphrase an auto industry analyst, it's who has new models coming out that gains the winning edge. *(With reports from The New York Times and Bloomberg News)*

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: 7 days without pizza makes one weak.

Diesel pollution causes deadly diseases

DIESEL pollution causes deadly diseases and premature deaths, according to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which has officially listed this killer smoke as a toxic air contaminant (TAC).

CARB placed 40 chemicals in diesel exhaust on California's list of TACs, citing exposure to such health hazards could increase risk of developing lung cancer and other noncancer diseases.

In listing diesel as a TAC, CARB determined that the increased cancer risk from diesel particulates could cause premature deaths in more than 14,000 Californians exposed to diesel pollution over a lifetime.

The same is feared in the Philippines, where studies point to diesel smoke as the cause of 70 percent of air pollution in Metro Manila.

At least 15 percent of the Philippines' 2.2-million vehicles are public utilities, which are heavily concentrated in Metro Manila and other key cities nationwide.

Linked to cancer

Numerous scientific studies reportedly link diesel fumes to cancer, the exacerbation of asthma and other respiratory diseases and premature death because of its constituent chemicals that are human toxicants, carcinogens, and even reproductive hazards.

Ninety-four percent of diesel emissions are estimated to be fine particles that can be inhaled into the deepest parts of the lungs.

Compared with human hair which is 75 microns in diameter, the fine particles in diesel exhaust are even less than 2.5 microns.

These airborne fine particle concentrations result in increased hospital admissions for respiratory diseases, chronic obstructive lung disease, pneumonia and heart disease.

Long-term and repeated exposures can gravely impair lung function and cause inflammation of the lung lining.

Diesel fumes also contribute substantially to ozone pollution, a powerful respiratory irritant that may lead to shortness of breath, chest pain, wheezing, coughing and other respiratory illnesses such as asthma.

Linked to asthma

Studies have shown that the proximity of a child's school or home to major roads may be linked to asthma, and the severity of children's asthmatic symptoms increases with proximity to diesel vehicular traffic.

CARB data indicate that diesel engines statewide are responsible for about 384,345 tons of annual nitrogen oxide pollution and 28,000 tons of particulate matter, not including emissions associated with refining and other steps in the petroleum fuel cycle.

The situation is probably worse in Metro Manila, which is said to be the fourth most polluted city in all of Asia.

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Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

HOW do I know when to replace my shock absorbers?
—Joseph Gerard Jadie

Shock absorbers wear out slowly, which is why changes in handling often pass unnoticed until there is a sudden failure. That means even as you are using your car in the normal manner, road holding, braking and comfort are gradually deteriorating without you realizing it.

The most familiar test used for shock absorbers is what you could call the "bounce test." Push down with your whole body weight on each corner of the vehicle and quickly let the body back up. The vehicle should bounce up, back down and then up one more time. This shows the valves inside the shock are working properly. If the car bounces more than three times when doing this test, the shocks definitely need replacement. Unfortunately, this test will only tell you the condition of the shocks when they are already very bad. If the car dips and then recovers immediately without any further bounce, the shocks may be fine, but could still be below par when it comes to small movements.

Shocks can also be checked visually. The shock absorbers should be dry, and the shock's boots should not be damaged. Wet oil on the outside of the assembly means it needs replacing. When fluid starts leaking out of the shock, in a very short time (if not already) it will stop working, making your car unsafe to drive.

A worn shock absorber allows the tires to bounce too much causing a reduced grip on the road and dangerous steering instability. This can result in loss of control. Worn shock absorbers can also result in abnormal wear of the tire tread and affect ride and handling, and in the long run wreak havoc on alignment and the entire suspension system.

To be on the safe side, manufacturers recommend regular checks every 15,000 km by an experienced technician.

Mar Roxas must act fast

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I RECEIVED a letter that should be worth our while. It came from Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Truck Manufacturers Association Inc. It's about the importation of used vehicles. Read on:

"On behalf of the members of the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), I would like to reiterate our organization's support for the government's vision for a sustainable globally competitive Philippine motor vehicle industry. This includes the aggressive target of increasing export and domestic sales of the locally produced vehicles from 200,000 to 250,000 units by the year 2007.

"To achieve this new peak level (since the all-time high of over 160,000 units was achieved in 1996), the Department of Trade and Industry is preparing a clear and stable policy framework that will create a level playing field among all participants in the government's Motor Vehicle Development Program. A major component of this is the prohibition of used vehicle importation.

"In the last official presentation of the Board of Investments, this prohibition explicitly stated the total ban of all types of used vehicles. The only exception mentioned was for special purpose vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances. It is this official position of Trade Secretary Mar Roxas which we are firmly supporting. As we have previously stated, the unregulated influx of used vehicles in the past three years is one of the major reasons the local industry has yet to recover from the post-Asian financial crisis slump unlike our other counterparts in the Asean.

"We have yet to verify through official DTI documents whether or not the newspaper reports that cited the inclusion of even light trucks as being exempted from this prohibition is correct. Until then, we are convinced that government is determined to support the automotive industry and that Secretary Roxas will push for the tougher prohibition on used vehicles as previously committed."

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

* * *

I think Ms Lee has a point. The practice of importing used vehicles has become a pesky problem for Ms Lee's group since its inception in 1999. The Subic auctions and similar activities in other parts of Luzon have really made a considerable dent on the locally manufactured vehicles because, for one, they come in cheap.

While we have a so-called free enterprise in that anybody can engage in business within the parameters of the law, it will not be foul for the government to review the policies on the importation of used vehicles.

The focal point here is how to really level the playing field. If, indeed, the importation of used vehicles creates an undue advantage over locally manufactured vehicles, then the government should start rethinking its policies.

I guess even the exempting of fire trucks and ambulances should also be reviewed thoroughly. What do you, Mr. Roxas?

* * *

During the recent 13th Motorshow International at the World Trade Center, the Starex again drew crowds.

Orders for the best-selling luxury van reached sky-high proportions and the reason for that was the 3-year factory warranty, or 100,000-km warranty if the vehicle is purchased from authorized Hari (Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.) dealers.

Also displayed and drawing raves during the show were Starex's teammates, Matrix and Santa Fe.

* * *

The drive against smoke belchers will never succeed because law enforcers, like you and me, also need to rest.

I mean, do we have people deputized to arrest smoke belchers at night?

Go to either Edsa or Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., and you will see buses belching black smoke and racing like hell—if not raising hell themselves.

Who needs the Clean Air Act?

* * *

QUOTE ME. Buckle up. It's a good habit.

Nissan Frontier 2003 unleashed in the city

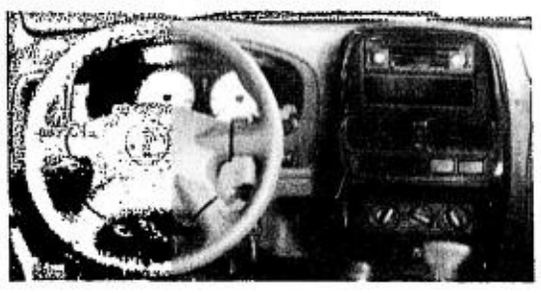
By Aida Sevilla Mendoza

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. has rolled out the 2003 model of the top-selling pickup truck in the Philippines, the Nissan Frontier.

"It has the unrivaled beauty and power of an unbridled beast," UMC senior vice president for marketing Elizabeth Lee said at the launching last Monday in the Westin Philippine Plaza ballroom. "I'm sure it will be another best-seller."

Lani de Leon, UMC senior manager of advertising and promotions, said that since its introduction in 1998, the Frontier's market share has surged from 20.4 percent to 31.6 percent in the compact pickup market. UMC marketing manager Gerry Gelle revealed that in September, 217 units of the Frontier were sold, thereby increasing its market share to 50.2 percent in the 4x2 compact pickup category, 40.3 percent in the 4x4 segment and 43.1 percent in the combined double-cab pickup segment. He said that UMC's sales target for the '03 Frontier is 730 units within the two remaining months before the year ends.

A NEW chrome grille, new multireflector headlights, heftier front bumpers and bigger fender flares distinguish the 2003 Nissan Frontier.



A NEW four-spoke steering wheel, white meter gauges and woodgrain paneling are found in the 2003 Frontier's leather-clad interior.

Sporty good looks

Although the Frontier is locally assembled as all UMC vehicles are, the '03 model was designed in the United States and has the same robust and sporty good looks as the US model. Immediately noticeable up front are the larger, multireflector clear lens headlights with integrated signal lamps, the new chrome grille with black honeycomb background and V! framing the Nissan badge, heftier front bumpers with big, round integrated fog lamps. The rear is distinguished by a tailgate handle garnish, new V! and "FRONTIER" badge, chrome-colored rear bumpers with molded rubber step to prevent slipping when loading. The cargo bed is protected by a spray-on type bedliner. Sidewise, bigger fender flares and side stepboard catch the viewer's eye.

Inside, a new sporty 4-spoke steering wheel with the new V! replaces the 3-spoke one of the previous model. Woodgrain paneling, white meter gauges, cupholders, leather seats (for the 4x4 model) and an in-dash CD with remote complete the interior picture.

Safety features

The Nissan Frontier was the first compact pickup equipped with a driver-side SRS airbag. It also has side-impact beams, front and rear seatbelts, child safety locks, a reinforced ladder type chassis and a rigid safety zone passenger cabin with crumple zones to disperse impact in case of a collision.

The '03 Frontier is powered by the largest diesel engines in its class—2.7 or 3.2 liter, water-cooled 4-cylinder in-line OHV with quick glow system producing max torque of 216 Nm at a low 2000 rpm. The suspension consists of an independent, double-wishbone torsion bar type up front and semi-elliptic leaf spring at the rear, both with telescopic shock absorbers.

The '03 Frontier is priced at P765,000 for the 4x2 manual transmission (MT) model, P840,000 for the 4x2 automatic transmission (AT), P1,030,000 for the 4x4 MT and P1,065,000 for the 4x4AT model. It carries a warranty good for two years or 50,000 kilometers (whichever comes first).

THE REAR of the new Frontier has a tailgate handle garnish and chrome-colored rear bumpers with molded rubber step.

Bosch system enables efficient handling of service, repair jobs

THE NEW Esitronic workshop system by Bosch is an ideal software package for organizing and handling a car workshop's key activities, service jobs and repair of wear-related damage.

Based on the proven and standardized Esitronic user interface, four interconnected CD-ROMs provide comprehensive information related to car servicing, inspection data, maintenance schedules and prices and working-time flat rates are all available at a single mouse-click. This enables workshops to save time in planning and handling their repair activities while increasing their customers' satisfaction.

The workshop can already tell a customer when accepting the vehicle for repair what needs to be done and how much this will cost.

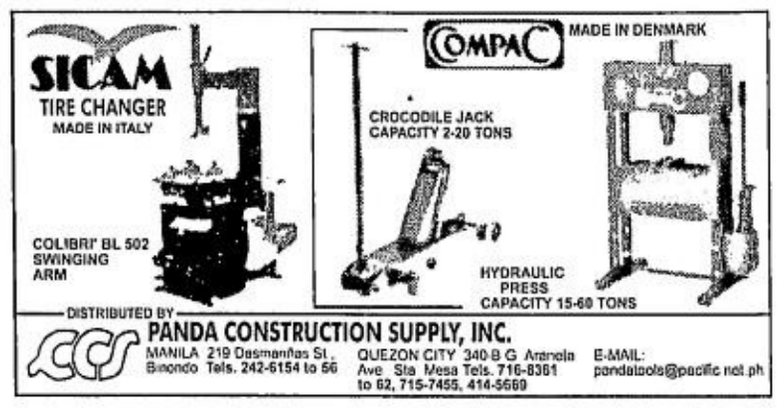
Entire cycle

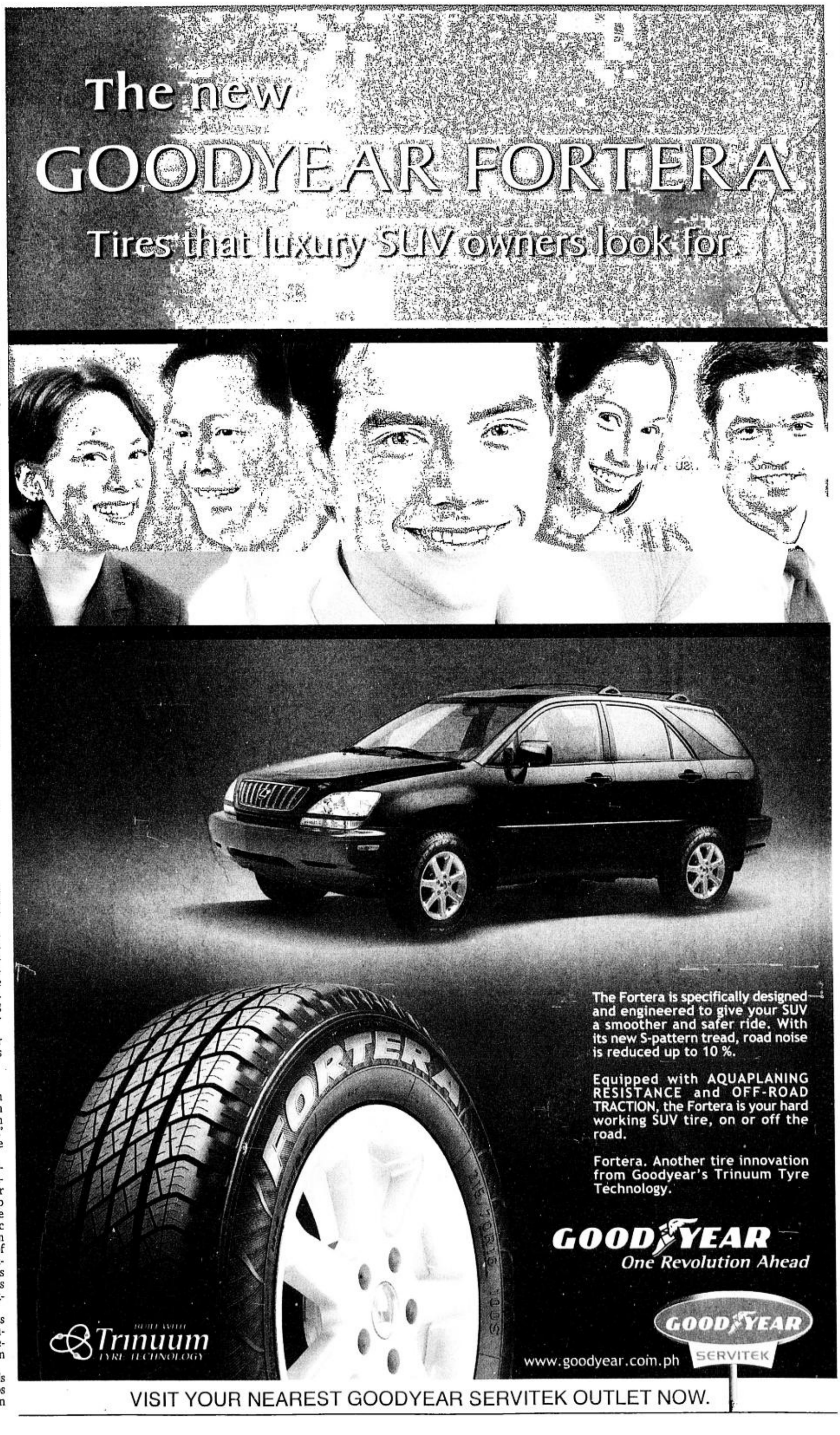
Using the CD-ROM package, workshops can control the entire cycle of a customer vehicle from acceptance and parts selection all the way through to invoice generation. The proven CD-ROM "A" contains the base data on the Bosch automotive equipment.

The new workshop system also includes CD-ROM "B" holding more than 2.5 million working-time flat rates for 7,000 of the most popular passenger cars. New elements of the workshop system are the CD-ROMs "TD" and "S." The "TD" CD-ROM contains the so-called Tecdoc data. "Tecdoc" is a joint, EU-wide data platform containing a comprehensive parts catalogue of almost all automotive parts manufacturers including prices. And finally, CD-ROM "S" holds descriptions of service and inspection activities for all available types of cars, parts and working times as well as tools to draw up quotes.

The entire Esitronic package now includes 12 CD-ROMs containing diagnostic and troubleshooting instructions, parts catalogues, repair instructions, circuit diagrams, inspection data and working time flat rates.

With the first CD-ROM launched in 1991, this software package for automotive workshops now embodies 10 years of know-how generation and continuous development activities.





MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

WITH ITS workhorse spirit inspired by the bull, its engine powered by Japan and its design created for Filipinos, the Ford Fiera 2200 cc (diesel) and 1600 cc (gas) gave its passengers a cheap but jarring ride.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

'Relia-bull,' 'afforda-bull' AUV lives on in this man

By Tessa R. Salazar

A MAN, waxing sentimental, holds on to the past. He says something Filipino was lost in the limbo of time and insists on bringing back its true identity.

This "something" he speaks of is the Asian utility vehicle.

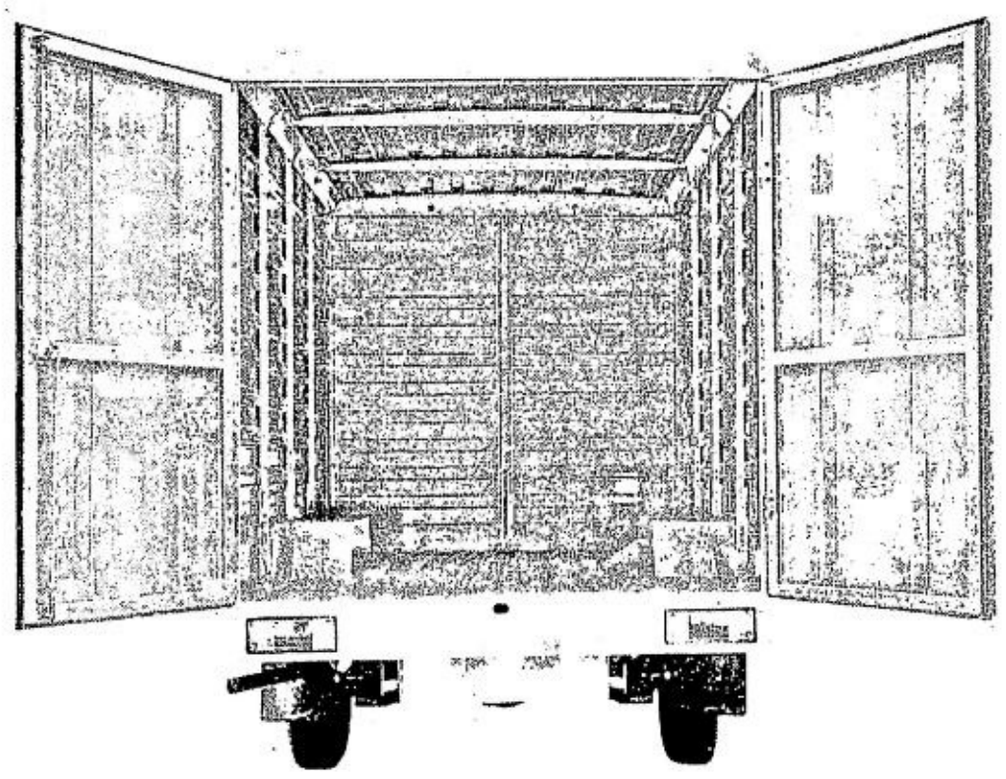
The AUV's true meaning is lost in the multitude of today's "hybrid" AUVs, he says. If only the major vehicle manufacturers could develop a utility vehicle that would be affordable to small entrepreneurs, then even the secondhand auctioneers wouldn't stand a chance, he muses.

Reminiscences

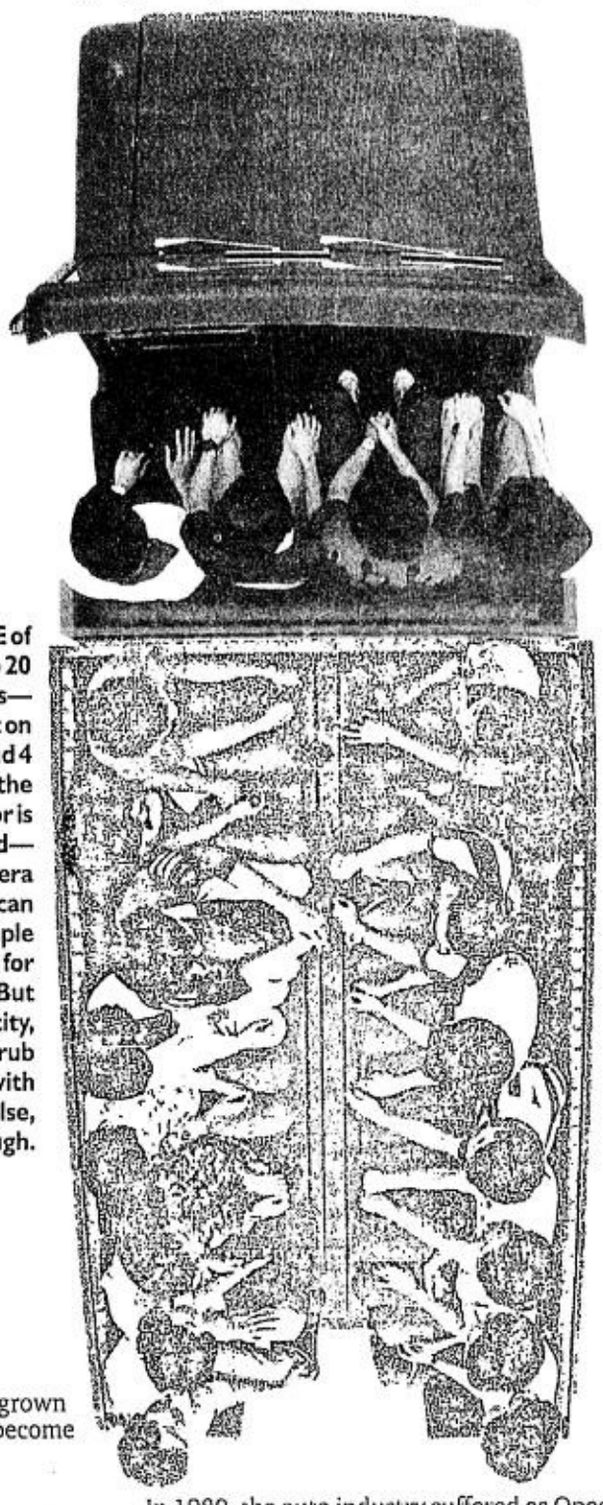
Renato B. Jaurigue, a retired automotive chief engineer from 1963 to 1998, recalls how Ford introduced the AUV to the Philippine automotive market, and how the major auto manufacturers abandoned the AUV's original design when Ford left the country in the 1980s.

He says auto manufacturers went on to merge the look of western "SUVs" with the utility role of the AUV—at a price.

He admits, though, that yesterday's AUVs such as Ford Fiera, Toyota Tamaraw and Mitsubishi Cimarron had the "ugliness" only Filipinos could love. Now, 20 years later, the "ugly duckling" (rather, bull) AUVs have outgrown their grotesqueness and have become "swans" of the motoring pond.



IN ITS time, the Fiera van flaunted the biggest cargo space—5.78 cubic meters—and the heaviest load capacity of 1250 kg



CAPABLE of loading up to 20 passengers—8 abreast on each side and 4 in front as the cab floor is unobstructed—the Fiera Jeepney can provide ample leg room for everyone. But at full capacity, get ready to rub shoulders with everyone else, though.

How much

But beauty, says Jaurigue, does not make a man necessarily richer. "How much does the Revo, the Adventure and the Hi-Lander cost? Almost a million. How can the middle-class sector afford that?" he asks.

The first Asian utility vehicle in the Philippines cost about P10,000 in 1972, and the styling was blatantly basic, characterized by sharp edges and corners, and the ride was hard. It was called Fiera, made by American company Ford and launched at the hills of Davao. It provided a low-cost alternative for Filipino grassroots businessmen—those who peddled vegetables and fruits, or perhaps, those who ferried people in-between towns.

Jaurigue recalls that a traditional jeepney cost more than $2,000. His team's objective for the Ford Fiera was to maintain a price tag of $1,000, which he says his team achieved. At the time the peso-dollar exchange rate was $1 to P7.

Despite the jarring rides, the Fiera was an instant hit. It was the Fiera that pioneered the creation of the AUV market. Within a year, it accounted for 69 percent of total light commercial vehicles sold in the country. At its peak, the Fiera, and its kin the Tamaraw and Cimarron, were the real threats to the existence of the ubiquitous passenger jeepney.

Fiera models running on 1.1L and 1.3L Kent gasoline engines, carrying up to 0.75-ton payloads, had designs patterned after Philippine roads and Pinoy drivers. There were seven models: the jeepney, high-side pickup, high-side pick-up with roof, low-side pickup, chassis cab, the flatbed and the van.

Distinctive mark

In three years, AUVs sold reached the 12,000 mark. In 1976, 12,360 AUV units were sold. By this time as well, it was not only the Fiera that carried the distinctive mark of being an AUV.

Jaurigue says he was part of the production team of the Fiera in 1976. Several foreign automotive experts specializing in transmission, suspension and chassis were invited by Ford Motors Philippines to help out.

All major vehicle manufacturers, by then, introduced competitors to the Fiera. These were General Motors' Harabas, Isuzu's KC20, Carco-Mitsubishi's Cimarron, Francisco Motors Corp.'s traditional jeepney called the Pinoy, and Delta's Toyota Tamaraw.

In January 1977, Fiera's Series II underwent its first major facelift to keep up with the increasing competition, and users' demands for more payload capacity. Fiera II introduced its 1.2-ton payload capacity model while keeping its .75-capacity model in the market.

By 1979, AUVs were selling at an annual rate of 20,000 units. Toyota Tamaraw, this time, captured market leadership at 40 percent, with the Fiera accounting for 33 percent. The Fiera suffered a decline in sales and profits as expensive European-sourced components were used in its production.

In 1980, the auto industry suffered as Opec (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) raised oil prices. The AUV market, meanwhile, suffered a double whammy with the freeze on new jeepney licenses.

Phoenix, a new Fiera program, was born to regain market leadership. It attempted to "reduce the uniqueness and sourcing complexity" by using the TK Courier powertrain and chassis components, Jaurigue says.

In October 1980, Fiera III was born. Using a carryover driveline, Ford introduced some cab improvements: stamped roof, fenders and headlamp cans. The Fiera III brought Ford to a 32-percent market share.

By 1981, Jaurigue reminisces 52,000 Fieras were sold from the time it was introduced.

In February 1982, the all-new Ford Fiera hit the road. It provided advancements in styling, fuel economy, performance, ride and handling, offering then trailblazing 5-speed diesel transmission, front disc brakes, a torsion guard chassis, a new grille design and a new hood in its TK driveline. The XLT model sported a modern sedan-like appearance. It was described as having white spoke wheels, body side stripes, driver's bucket seat and auxiliary gauges. A groovy machine, indeed.

Ford's 'Model T2'

The original concept of the low-cost vehicle was the Model T of Henry Ford II, which also introduced the concept of mass production in the automotive industry.

A subsequent T2 model, conceptualized for underdeveloped countries, represented a class of vehicle that could be assembled with minimum capital investment.

The Model T2's design objective was that it should have as many parts and components of such a design that they may be produced in underdeveloped countries using relatively unsophisticated equipment, i.e., break press and spot weld operations performing the majority of manufacturing and assembly.

It was from the Model T2 concept that the Fiera was conceived.

"Ford manufactured Fiera in the Philippines with 90 percent of the content sourced in the country. We only imported the steering mechanism and electrical systems," Jaurigue says.

The research and development cost of the last Fiera in 1984, he says, was about $3.2 million including the tool and equipment costs. In 1984, by the time Ford closed shop in the Philippines, the Fiera IV cost roughly P84,000.

Fiera resurrection?

Jaurigue believes that a Fiera-type vehicle could still have a place in a turn-of-the-millennium Philippines. Perhaps a slight change in the front cab would make a new Fiera look attractive to the market. But to keep the costs to a minimum, the rear body would have to be made in the Philippines.

If only Ford could pick up from where it left off.

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BUSINESS

US consumer confidence plunges to new 9-yr low

NEW YORK—Consumer confidence in the economy tumbled more sharply than expected in October, reaching its lowest levels in nearly nine years, a private research firm said Tuesday. Some analysts said the report increases the chances the Federal Reserve will slash interest rates when its board meets next week.

A weak job market, the impending threat of war in Iraq, and a prolonged bear market were the main culprits weighing on consumer sentiment, the Conference Board said. Its Consumer Confidence Index skidded to 79.4 from 93.7 in September.

The fall was the fifth consecutive monthly decline in the index and was much lower than the 90.0 reading economists expected. The index is based on a monthly survey of about 5,000 US households and stood at 100 in its base year, 1985.

Fed policy-makers meet on Nov. 6 and some suspect it will move to cut short-term interest rates for the first time this year.

"I'd say these figures significantly increase the odds of the Fed cutting rates next week," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina. "And because there's a lot riding on this holiday season I think they now need to go all the way" and cut by a half-point rather than a quarter-point.

The Fed has left its benchmark overnight borrowing rate at a 40-year low of 1.75 percent since last December, when it made the last of 11 rate reductions aimed at lifting the country out of recession. This year's recovery, however, has proceeded in fits and starts, stirring talk that more cuts are needed.

The confidence index is widely watched because consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of all economic activity. Still, economists are generally wary of drawing too many conclusions about the direction of the economy from consumer confidence reports, saying instead that what affects the economy is consumer spending, not consumer attitudes.

"The thing to keep in mind here is that consumer confidence . . . generally lags behind other signs the economy is recovering," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis. *AP*

Japan still drawing up economic reforms

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was still trying to hammer out a final agreement on a much-anticipated economic revival package Wednesday as time ticked down on a self-imposed deadline for implementing reform.

Koizumi has backed the basic comeback plan outlined by his get-tough Economy Minister Heizo Takenaka. But the prime minister planned to meet with leaders of his coalition government later Wednesday to smooth out last-minute differences.

"The government is serious about getting this done," Koizumi said, adding that reform would now "proceed in earnest."

Koizumi had pledged to unveil the plan by the end of the month, and was aiming for Wednesday night. Koizumi's spokesperson Misako Kaji said the final proposal followed the "basic line of what Takenaka has planned."

The launch of Takenaka's plan fell through just last week, however, amid fears within Koizumi's own ruling Liberal Democratic Party that the reforms were too severe.

Rebooting the economy has been a major campaign pledge of Koizumi, who has come under fire as Japan wallows in a decadelong recession marked by stagnant growth, record unemployment, a plummeting stock market and debilitating deflation.

Chipping in Wednesday to revive growth, Japan's central bank relaxed its ultra-easy monetary policy. The Bank of Japan's decision should make it even easier for businesses to get the loans they need to fund expansion. *AP*

Asian stocks drop on grim US data, Japan concerns

SINGAPORE—Japanese shares inched higher on Wednesday on expectations a key banking reform plan will prove less painful in the short term than first thought, even as other Asian markets stumbled on lousy US consumer confidence data.

A late announcement from the Bank of Japan of a further easing in monetary policy gave another lift to stocks but left the yen and Japanese government bonds little moved.

Stock benchmarks dropped by less than one percent in many Asian centers after US shares mostly fell on news consumer confidence declined for a fifth straight month in October to its lowest in nine years. South Korea was the biggest loser, falling 2.25 percent on a tumble in exporters' shares. *Reuters*

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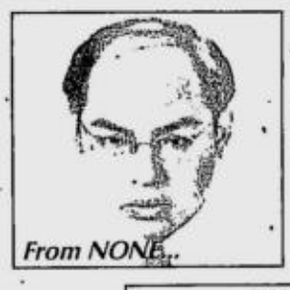

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

CHINESE Cake and Packed Belly Pork with Rice Flavoring, gold with distinction award, pork category

The 'City of Life' now offers a more diverse mix of attractions, not just shopping

PRESERVED Trotters with Soy Sauce, gold with distinction award, pork category

HK hopes quickest way to tourist's heart is through the stomach

PHOTOS BY ALEX VERGARA

By Alex Y. Vergara

JUST when a growing number of Filipinos are skipping Hong Kong in favor of such new or supposedly more exciting destinations as Shanghai or Bangkok, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has come up with 40 new reasons for tourists to put the former Crown Colony back on their itineraries.

And we don't mean the entry of more signature labels or the opening of several ritzy shopping malls, but HKTB's attempt to identify the 40 finest dishes that represent the best of classic Cantonese cooking to firmly secure Hong Kong as the "Culinary Capital of Asia."

After an almost five-month search involving close to 400 dishes from over 200 Hong Kong restaurants, HKTB announced recently the winners of the second annual Best of the Best Culinary Awards. As in the first competition, this year's tilt was divided into four categories: pork, fried rice, bean curd (tofu) and lobster. Last year's featured dishes were grouped into chicken, wanton noodles, dim sum, and prawns and crabs.

"There are quite a number of places that offer good Chinese food," said Robert Chow, member of HKTB and chair of this year's contest, "but when you talk about real Chinese dishes, which are ranged right up there with French cuisine, I think Hong Kong is still the best place to find them."

Twenty restaurants in each category made it to the first stage of the selection process. The number was later cut in half, to 10, based on suggestions made by "culinary ambassadors," men and women whose enviable task was to go to various restaurants incognito to sample each of the entries.

Hazards of the trade

"I told them not to complain should they end up gaining weight after the preliminary judg-

HK/ p.C4

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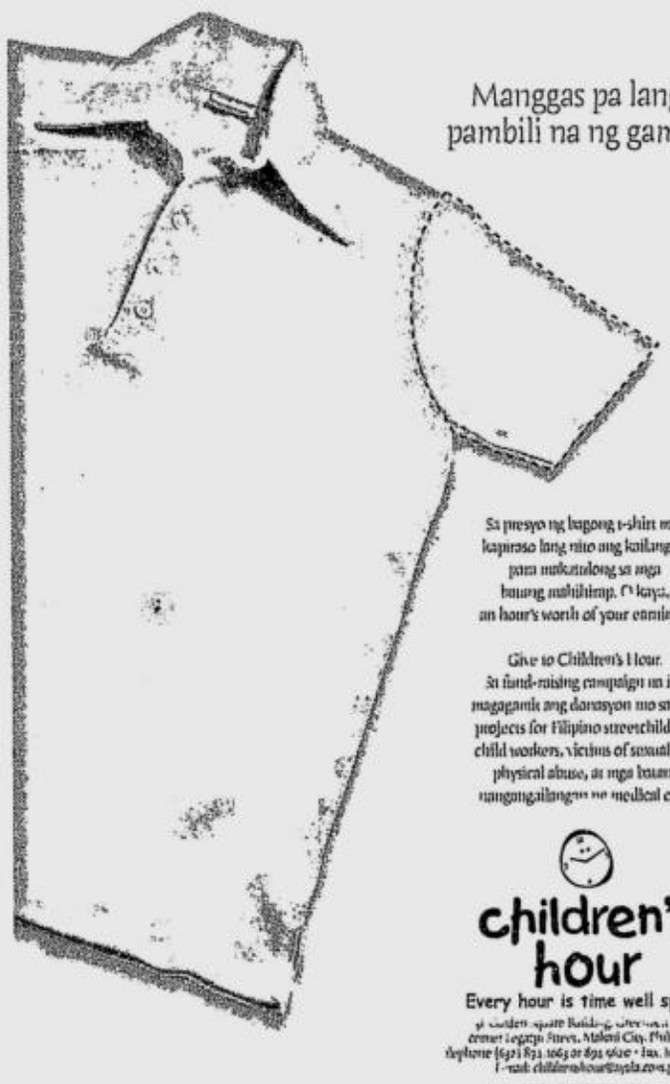

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WINNING chefs with judges and HKTB officials

The tongue knows

WITH A FEW exceptions, almost all of the dishes entered this year in Hong Kong's Best of the Best Culinary Awards looked like masterpieces worth preserving for eternity. In the end, however, judges in all categories chose primarily on the basis of one thing alone: taste.

"It's not a matter of chefs using complicated methods to come up with their respective dishes," said Eric Wong, head judge for the pork and fried rice categories. "As much as possible, I prefer a dish that's simple and representative of Cantonese cooking."

So a dish as common as Sweet and Sour Pork with Pineapple, a merit awardee, scored high in his book. Wong cited the typical Cantonese dish for its simplicity. Despite being partial to simplicity, Wong readily made exceptions for the top two winners—Chinese Cake and Packed Belly Pork with Rice Flavoring and Preserved Trotters with Soy Sauce.

"Both dishes are difficult to prepare," he explained, "but in the case of the first one, the steps the chef took were very clear. He was able to come up with a dish that produced a range of distinctive sensations in the mouth." The rice cake was a perfect foil to an otherwise rich and oily dish, tempering any excesses.

The Preserved Trotters, another complicated dish, required a great deal of advance preparation. Small wonder that many restaurants in Hong Kong have dropped it from their menus. Wong also cited the dish, probably Hong Kong's version of the German sausage, for its ability to evoke a range of sensations in the palate.

Thai food critic May Choy stressed the importance of using the best rice to produce an exceptional entry in the fried rice category. The chef's ability to control fire, he said, was an important aspect in Chinese cooking. That meant using only fire generated by wood or gas, not electricity.

"I prefer the long-grained variety found in the south," Choy said. "Good rice when cooked should be soft not sticky."

He cited the Fried Rice with Shredded Fish and Ginger, one of two distinction awardees, for the chef's ability to fuse the old with the new. "It's a very traditional dish and not so many young people know it. In fact, almost every menu in China uses ginger. Without this ingredient, a dish is incomplete."

Australian writer and food critic Elizabeth Chong was bowled over by the great skill that went into the cutting and presentation of Bean Curd Ensemble, one of three distinction awardees in the tofu category.

"At first," she said, "I thought the bean curd category would be a difficult one to judge because bean curd itself doesn't have any taste. It has amazing texture and is an absorbent material, but one can't judge a bean curd dish with its accompanying materials."

Despite using a main ingredient that could easily turn into something indistinguishable and messy, Chong was amazed at how stylish some of the entries were. "The winning dishes weren't reduced into a jumble," she noted, "but in fact had a superb simplicity about them. Simplicity is something which can easily be spoiled."

Of course, taste became the deciding factor in a crowded field of pretty plates. Chong, for instance, considered the Steamed Bean Curd with Bamboo Pith and Ham a "triumph." The salty Hunan ham between pieces of the silky bean curd contrasted perfectly with the bamboo pith's taste and texture. "It just seemed to be a perfect sandwich," she said.

Hong Kong-based restaurateur William Mark, head judge for the lobster category, underscored the delicate balance achieved by the best. Lobster, if cooked properly, is naturally sweet and succulent. But it also tends to have a muddy, earthy flavor that tends to ruin even the freshest catch. A chef needs the right amounts of garlic, scallion or wine to temper any unpleasant aftertaste.

"The winning chefs," he said, "executed this perfectly by bringing out the lobsters' best qualities without the shortcomings."

The top two winners, one steamed, the other stir-fried, required utmost timing. None of them, Mark said, were overcooked or undercooked. Like almost all the dishes entered in the contest, lobsters are best cooked in simple, uncomplicated ways.

Alex Y. Vergara

A CHEF, oblivious to the noise and myriad aromas around him, prepares his bean curd dish under time pressure.

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AT T.G.I. FRIDAY'S, kids are encouraged to come in their wackiest or spookiest get-ups today so they will get the kiddie meal of their choice for free. Fun masks and magic sticks from Nestlé will also be given away. T.G.I. Friday's branches are located at Glorietta, Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in QC, Alabang Town Center and the Brickroad of Sta. Lucia East.

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S "Halloween Fun Package" includes special room packages for local residents. The offer is valid until Nov. 5, with delightful amenities like American buffet breakfast for two persons, in-room tea and coffee-making facilities, complimentary stay for children below 12 years old, and late check-out until 4 p.m. As a post-Halloween treat, a complimentary pass for children below 12 years old will be given at the Harry Potter Trivia Event, presented by the hotel together with Bankee Trading, on Nov. 10 at the Captain's Bar. Call 750-8888.

OUTBACK RESTAURANT introduces Sea Scallops served with your favorite dishes. Partake of the new King Canyon's Pork (slow-roasted pork loin seasoned to perfection, topped with homemade peppercorn sauce and served with fresh veggies and garlic mashed potatoes) with scallops cooked just right on the side. Try this with North Atlantic Salmon that's served with fresh steamed veggies and the Outback Special, a center-cut sirloin that's seasoned and seared and served with fresh veggies and garlic mashed potatoes. Outback Restaurant branches are at Glorietta 4, Makati; Libis, QC; and Alabang Town Center.

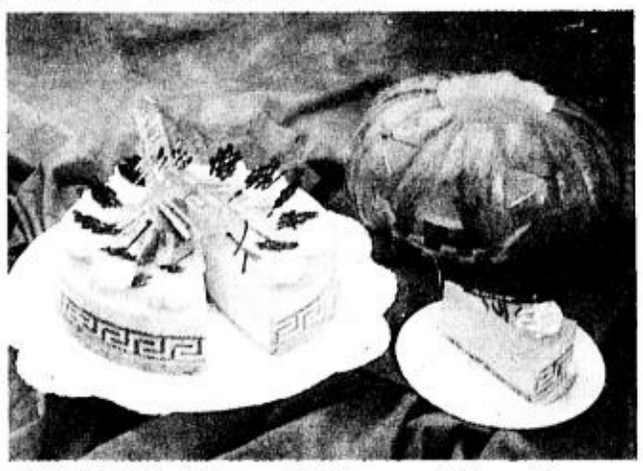
BURGOO presents Four Greatest Hits, the restaurant's selection of four dishes successfully launched this year. Available until Nov. 30, every order from the Four Greatest Hits comes with free bottomless Coke. Burgoo's outlets are located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC; 3/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati, and at 2/L The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. Call 927-7424, 898-1815 to 16, or 687-5254.

CAFE ASTORIA offers the Chef's Signature dishes "Astoria Duets" from 5 p.m. onwards. Featured are Inihaw na Salmon, Inihaw na Pusit, Arranccini, Chicken Inasal, Seafood Spring Roll and Pork Siomai, complemented by your choice of icy cold drink—beer, iced tea or softdrink. Prices start at P150+. Café Astoria is at the G/F of Astoria Plaza at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District. Call 687-1111.

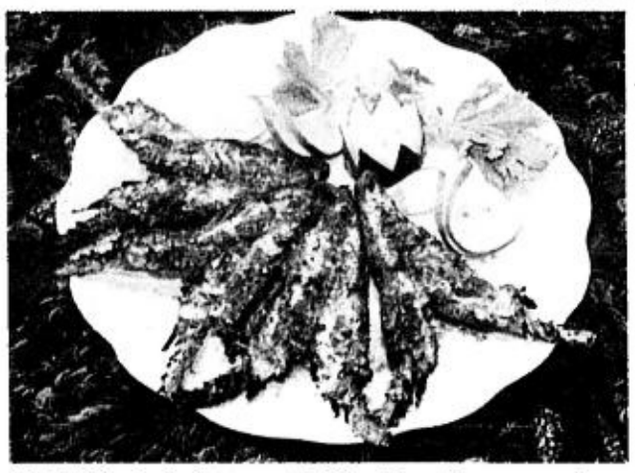
CASA ARMAS continues its Spanish Culinary Journey Promo. Experience Rioda, Spain, with November's featured dish—Lomo con Pimiento—sumptuous pork tenderloin swimming in luscious sauce. Guests are encouraged to bring their postcards when they visit Casa Armas; order a serving of Lomo con Pimiento and get a 10-percent discount on any of the Rioda wines. Call 897-3542/3605 for Makati branch or 687-3370/3665 for Ortigas branch.

NATIONAL SPORTS GRILL launches the Ivy League Menu, four delicious dishes at prices between P155 and P255. For seafood lovers, there's the Surfboard Salmon, a Norwegian salmon cooked in hollandaise sauce and Beach Volley Fillet, a golden pan-fried cream dory fillet with greenway sauce. Both are served with angel hair pasta tossed in garlic aioli. For meat buffs, there's Grilled Lemon-Marinated Chicken breasts with Country-style Rootbeer Sauce and Grilled Pork Rump Steak with Barbecue Sauce, served with Saffron Rice topped with Buttered Peas and Corn. NSG is located at 3/L Greenbelt 1, Makati. Call 752-5431.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA presents "Dim Sum Discoveries" at the Summer Palace. Choose from more than 20 kinds of dim sum for lunch on weekdays and over 45 varieties for brunch on Sundays and public holidays. These include Shark's Fin, Scallops, Shrimp, Prawn and Spinach Dumplings, Xio Mai, Mango Shrimp Rolls, Steamed Spare Ribs and Chicken Feet, Fried Wontons, Glutinous Rice Wrapped in Lotus Leaf, Radish Cakes, Curry Chicken Pie, Spring Rolls, and Mango Pudding. "Dim Sum Discoveries" is available Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and Sunday and public holidays, 9 a.m.-2: 30 p.m. Call 633-8888 local 2738/2739.



THE MANILA Midtown Hotel presents Pumpkin Cheese Cake. It has the smooth creaminess of pumpkin and cheese, coated with a tangy yet sweet glazing. Chocolate toppings provide a bittersweet contrast. Call 526-7001 local 6561.



CHILI Garlic Lobster grilled in olive oil, seasoned with Forest Grill special chili and garlic sauce. Savor a wide range of Mediterranean, Asian, International and Filipino cuisine at Forest Grill, located at 12 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati. It accepts catering for all occasions.

Budget-friendly authentic Chinese dishes

LUK Foo Cantonese kitchen at Puregold Building, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque (in front of Duty Free Philippines), offers mouthwatering Chinese dishes.

"Fast-food style" is how its owners describe Luk Foo's concept—but with fine-dining quality. Check out the fancy food arrangements and presentations, spruced up by artsy metal and stone plates, which make dining in Luk Foo a treat for all senses. Its chefs from Hong Kong likewise make sure only the best dim sum, suckling pig and Peking Duck are served to Luk Foo's seemingly-endless stream of customers, day and night. That's just three of Luk Foo's specialties, which use imported ingredients (including the rice).

Case in point is the *hakaw* (steamed shrimp dumplings)—fresh shrimp covered in a diaphanous wrapper, full and firm to the bite, so good even folks straight from the mainland applaud its taste. There's also the Salted Mixed Vegetables, a simple but flavor-packed dish of cauliflower, mushroom, broccoli leaves and corn kernels. The pork *siomai* is exceptional as well; instead of the usual ground mush in egg wrapper, it consists of chunky (not bits of grounded) pork and mushroom. The Luk Foo Fried Rice mixed with suckling pig, shrimp puffs, nuts broccoli, egg, chives and carrots is truly special. And one must try Spanish Soup, a recipe of pureed spinach, *misua* noodles, *kani* bits, shrimp and bean curd.

Call 851-9288. Luk Foo is open daily, 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

LUK Foo seafood specialties

Hello BK!

Craving for a Nokia 7650? Then grab a WHOPPER® now because BURGER KING® is giving away a Nokia 7650 to WHOPPER® lovers once a week for 6 weeks from October 12 to November 22, 2002 only!

Here's how to join the Hello BK Raffle:

This raffle is open to all Globe postpaid and prepaid, Islacom and Touch Mobile and SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk N' Text subscribers.

Every purchase of a **WHOPPER®** or a **WHOPPER JR™** value meal entitles guest to one scratch card. To join raffle, simply scratch the window of the card to reveal a code and send this by texting **Hello**<space>**BK** <space>**code found in the scratch card**<space> **name**<comma>**address**<comma>**birthdate** (mm/dy/year).

Example: Hello BK 123456-ABCDEFGHIJ Eliza Corpuz,3 Economia Street Libis QC,07-04-1979 and send to 211 for SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk N' Text subscribers, 2333 for Globe postpaid and prepaid, Islacom and Touch Mobile.

All valid entries will receive via text message a confirmation and a **FREE SUGAR CONE** text coupon that can be redeemed on the next purchase of a **WHOPPER®** Value Meal or a **WHOPPER JR™** Value Meal. Send as many entries to increase your chances of winning a Nokia 7650 every week.

Codes can only be used once. In the event that another person or another text entry with the same code has been sent, only the first entry will be accepted and participant will receive a text informing the invalid text raffle entry. For incorrect text entries (i.e. error in texting code/incomplete information), participant will receive a text informing him/her of the error in the entry. The rate of sending one text raffle entry is P2.50.

A participant can only win once. All winners of the draw will be informed via a call, a text message and registered mail. From the date of notification, winners have until 60 days to claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of PERF RESTAURANTS, INC. with prior approval from DTI.

Are you hungry for a WHOPPER® now?

To claim your Nokia 7650, please bring your winning SIM card with the congratulatory text message, scratch card with the code, your letter of notification and a valid ID to the MYAYALA.COM INC. Head Office at the Mezzanine Floor, Greenbelt Square, Ayala Center, Makati City 1228. Only scratch cards with authenticated security codes will be honored.

Employees of PERF RESTAURANTS, INC., Burger King Corporation, MYAYALA.COM INC. and Campaigns and Grey including up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining this raffle.

See posters and flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3912 Series of 2002.

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HK hopes quickest way to tourist's heart is through the stomach

From page C1

STEAMED Thin-cut Bean Curd with Carrot and Mushrooms, gold with distinction award, bean curd category

STIR-FRIED Lobster with Spring Onions, Red Onion and Shallots, gold with distinction award, lobster category

ing," said Chow, with a chuckle. We know what he means. Pork was already coming out of our ears and noses from an endless series of taste tests. A figure-conscious colleague from Singapore complained good-naturedly of the hazards of the profession. And that was just Day One! We still had 30 dishes to sample and so much excess calories to absorb in the coming days.

Although each dish was already considered a winner, the contest had to live up to its name by picking the best of the best in each category. Thus, the event culminated in a "cook off" at the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute where chefs and their respective teams were given less than an hour to prepare their entries. Each had to start from scratch as they cooked three sets of the same dish for journalists, photographers and a new group of judges.

To minimize favoritism and promote transparency, HKTB tapped as judges in the finals four new groups composed of veteran food critics, writers, managers and celebrities in and outside Hong Kong. Several gold and gold with distinction awards were up for grabs in each of the four categories during the two-day event. (***See boxed item and related story on page C2.***)

"We went in there blind," said writer and food critic Elizabeth Chong, one of the judges in the bean curd category. "The printed material given to us only stated the names of the dishes and not the restaurants they came from."

Since she hails from Australia, such information wouldn't have made any difference to her. "I don't know any of them (chefs and restaurants)," she added. "Each dish had to compete based purely on its own merits."

People's choices

Judging focused on presentation, fragrance, taste and quality of the dishes, with particular emphasis on taste. Safety compliance, hygienic practices as well as service quality standards of the staff were also taken into account. Organizers tried to feel the public's pulse by inviting food lovers to vote for their favorite dishes once the top 10 finalists in each category were announced. Votes collected by each of the finalists accounted for 10 percent of the total score.

The range of participating restaurants reveals how popular the two-year-old tilt has become. Chefs connected with such big names as the Maxim's group and Kowloon Shangri-La competed with colleagues from smaller and lesser-known restaurants. What's more, the number of participants is said to have doubled compared to last year.

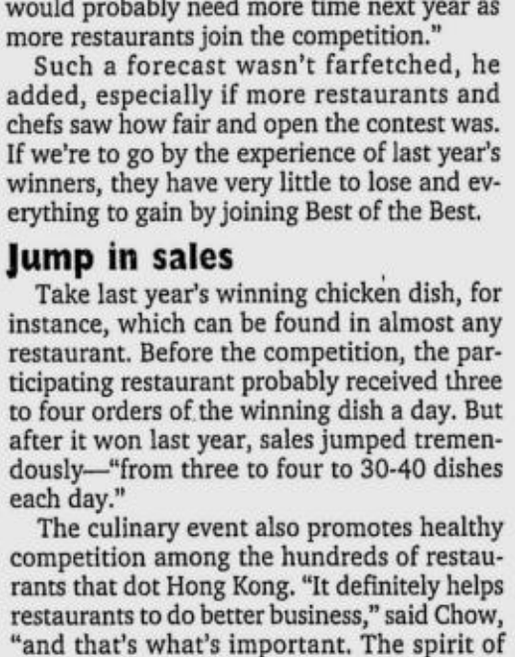
"It took us only two weeks last year to take care of the preliminaries," Chow said. "This year, it took us almost a month. We would probably need more time next year as more restaurants join the competition."

Such a forecast wasn't farfetched, he added, especially if more restaurants and chefs saw how fair and open the contest was. If we're to go by the experience of last year's winners, they have very little to lose and everything to gain by joining Best of the Best.

Jump in sales

Take last year's winning chicken dish, for instance, which can be found in almost any restaurant. Before the competition, the participating restaurant probably received three to four orders of the winning dish a day. But after it won last year, sales jumped tremendously—"from three to four to 30-40 dishes each day."

The culinary event also promotes healthy competition among the hundreds of restaurants that dot Hong Kong. "It definitely helps restaurants to do better business," said Chow, "and that's what's important. The spirit of competition is strong, but it's not just a matter of beating others. It also inspires them to do better."



ROBERT Chow, HKTB member and Best of the Best chair

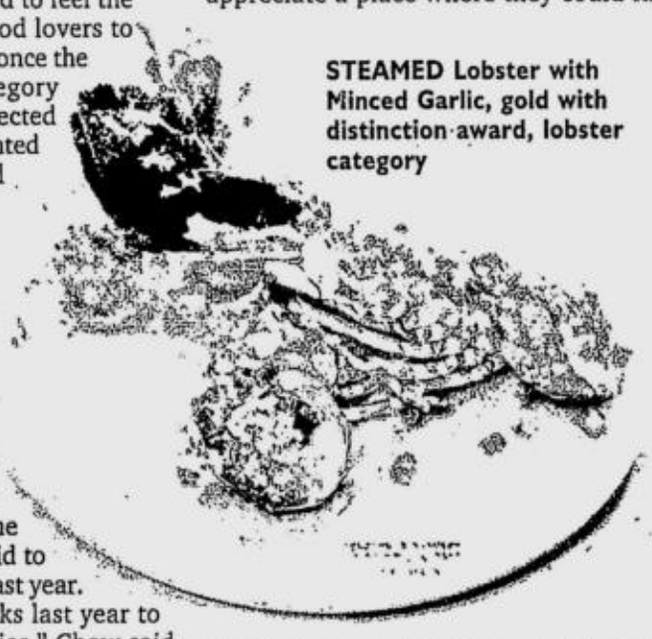
Like last year, finalists in each of the categories this year will be featured in a special booklet that will give information on certain chefs and the restaurants they work for. The dishes will also be featured from time to time in Discovery Hong Kong and uploaded to HKTB's website.

Hong Kong's once vibrant tourism industry has been sluggish in recent years following the return of the former British colony to China in 1997 and the 9/11 tragedy, whose consequences continue to be felt all over the world. Other regional destinations are also giving Hong Kong stiff competition.

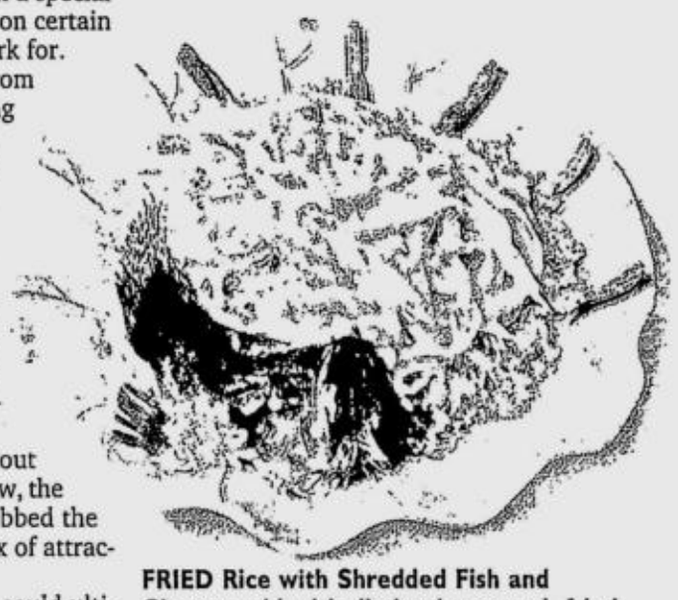
But Chow remains optimistic about Hong Kong particularly because now, the "City of Life," as the board has dubbed the territory, offers a more diverse mix of attractions, not just shopping.

Even its integration with China could ultimately prove to be a boon than a bane as more people travel to the mainland via Hong Kong. Of course, the challenge would be to make visitors stay longer in the city. And the territory's authentic and wide-ranging Cantonese and fusion fare could just be the right ticket.

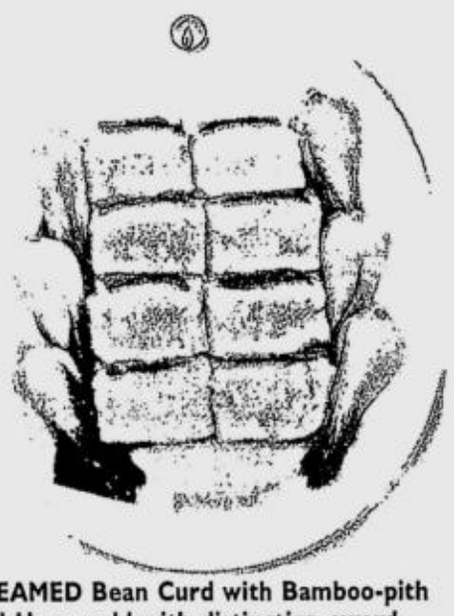
"You can see and do all sorts of things in a particular place," said Chow, "but at the end of the day you got to have your three square meals. It doesn't matter if the weather is good or the sun isn't shining. Most people would appreciate a place where they could find a good meal." Hong Kong wants to make sure they get only the best of the best.



STEAMED Lobster with Minced Garlic, gold with distinction award, lobster category



FRIED Rice with Shredded Fish and Ginger, gold with distinction award, fried rice category



STEAMED Bean Curd with Bamboo-pith and Ham, gold with distinction award, bean curd category

HKTB is represented in the Philippines by Perceptions Inc. (tel. 891-3396/3485/3556).

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

BEST OF THE BEST

Pork category

Gold with distinction awards

- Preserved Trotters with Soy Sauce by Chef Fung Ho Tong, Yung Kee Restaurant
- Chinese Cake and Packed Belly Pork with Rice Flavoring by Chef Wong Fong Kei, Faye's Nouvelle Chinois Restaurant

Gold awards

- Sliced Loin in Spicy Szechuan Sauce by Chef Wong Wing Seng, Wing Lai Yuen Restaurant
- Braised Sliced Pork with Dried Winter Melon by Chef Wan Sai Ho, Golden Dragon Chinese Cuisine
- Shanghaiese Pork Meat Balls with Mild Mushrooms by Chef Chan Wai Man, Tai Woo Restaurant

Fried Rice category

Gold with distinction awards

- Fried Rice with Shredded Fish and Ginger by Chef Chan Wai Man, Tai Woo Restaurant
- Baked Seafood Fried Rice in Pumpkin by Chef Paul Lau, Yee Tung Heen Chinese Restaurant

Gold awards

- Fried Rice with Diced Winter Melon and Crab Meat by Chef Ho Po Lung, Super Star Seafood Restaurant
- Fried Rice with Abalone and Shrimps by Chef Roger Ma Wai Kwong; The Jade Restaurant
- Fried Rice with Shrimps and Shrimp Paste by Chef Simon Tsang Chun Kai, Loong Yuen Cantonese Restaurant
- Fried Rice with Shrimps, Fish Maw and Special Shrimp Sauce by Chef Cheung Chi Man, Hei Hing Fong

Lobster category

Gold with distinction awards

- Stir-fried Lobster with Spring Onions, Red Onions and Shallots by Chef Siu Hin Chi, T'ang Court
- Steamed Lobster with Minced Garlic by Chef Tony Lam, Tung Lok Hin Restaurant

Gold awards

- Sautéed Lobster with Egg-White and Milk by Chef Lam Kwong Ming, Regal Seafood Restaurant
- Sautéed Lobsters with Mashed Partridge and Crispy Lobster Balls by Chef Mak Wai Ming, Golden Bauhinia Restaurant
- Baked Lobster with Supreme Sauce baked with Fried Rice-Vermicelli by Chef Chan Wai Man, Tai Woo Restaurant

Bean Curd category

Gold with distinction award

- Steamed Thin-cut Bean Curd with Carrot and Mushrooms by Chef Ho Ping Sing, Chiuchow Garden Restaurant
- Steamed Bean Curd with Bamboo-pith and Ham by Chang Pui, Maxim's Chinese Restaurant
- Bean Curd Ensemble by Chef Lau Wai Leung, Harmony Bistro

Gold Awards

- Three Tastes of Bean Curd by Chef Ho Yun Kwong, Tai Woo Restaurant
- Deep-fried Bean Curd Stuffed with Crab Meat by Chef Chow Hon Ling, Farm House Restaurant
- Steamed Bean Curd topped with Shrimps and Scallops served in Fish Soup by Chef Lau Yuk Kei, Golden Bauhinia Restaurant

Alex Vergara

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NOVEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

Nov. 04, Mon. – GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES. Seafood in Saffron Crème & Prosciutto, Squid Ink, Vegetarian White Cheese and Herbs, Sicilian Tuna Roe and many more. P1,200.00 including ingredients from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 05, Tues. – EXQUISITE CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS 2: COFFEE CAKES. The ultimate Christmas giveaway, easy to make, store and will last for weeks. Chef Junjun teaches an interesting array of cakes that's just right for the Yuletide season. Recipes include Orange and Currant Slice, Apple and Cranberry Loaf, Dried Fruit and Pistachio Bread, Christmas Date Loaf, Yuletide Fruit Cake and Cointreau Orange Bundt for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 06, Wed. – THANKSGIVING: TURKEY FEAST. Impress your friends with a complete Turkey dinner for the coming Thanksgiving. Recipes include 4 kinds of Stuffing, Giblet Gravy, Corn Bread, Split Pea Soup, Old Fashioned Fruit Salad and Glazed Sweet Potatoes with Campfire Crust. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 07, Thurs. – A SPANISH CHRISTMAS MEAL. Recipes from Ms. Betina Legarda's file of Spanish meals which includes Alcachofas con Chorizo, Ensalada de Narangjas, Sopa de Ajo y Bariaciones, Almejas y Pescado con Salsa Verde(i), Pollo con Aceitunas and Flan Especial for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

Nov. 08, Fri. – SIMPLE PATE, CONFIT AND TERRINES. Chef's Terrine, Chicken Liver Pate with Pistachio Nuts, Duck Confit, Pork Rillettes, Salmon Terrine, Onion Jam and Ginger Confit are recipes from Chef Gene that you can make and give as present for the coming holidays. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 09, Sat. – BASIC FILIPINO COOKERY Chef Gene will teach us simple recipes that include Apalit Kare-kare Special with Bagoong Guisado, Samal Rice, Guinataang Hipon sa Dilaw, Davao Bulalo, Kapampangan Adobo and Manga at Bilo-bilo for P960.00 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon.

Nov. 10, Sun. – FRIENDLY AND FUN-FILLED FONDUE. Learn these wonderful Swiss class of Swiss Cheese Fondue, Italian Bagna Cauda, Beef Fondue Bourgogne and Chocolate Fondue from Chef Gene Gonzalez including all ingredients from 9:00 – 12:00 noon for P880.00. NEW CLASS

Nov. 11, Mon. – EXQUISITE CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS 3. Sauces that are different yet simple that can be given to family, friends or for business. Chef Junjun creates for his students: Apple and Mango Chutney, Green Goddess Dressing, Barbecue Sauce, Dill Spread, Mango and Pineapple Salsa and Shiitake Shallot Sauce for P1, 500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 12, Tues. – A JAPANESE MEAL 1 Recipes include Sukiyaki, Shabu-shabu, Miso Soup, Nimono and Gindara Teriyaki from Chef Aoki including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00.

Nov. 13, Wed. – TEAHOUSE SPECIALTIES 1. Take the specialties of the best teahouses from Chef Gene Gonzalez and prepare them in your kitchen – simply! Recipes include Spicy Eggplant in Pot, Braised Soy Beef, Shrimp Dumpling, Amoy Lumpia, Drunken Chicken and Favorite Lemon Chicken for P1,500.00 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 14, Thurs. – A SPANISH CHRISTMAS MEAL 2. For the part 2 of our Spanish meal: Betina Legarda will teach recipes such as Gambas Ajillo, Pan con Tomate, Fabada Asturiana con Salsa Aleoli Rapido, Paella Marinera, Pollo con Chorizo and Crema Catalana. For P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 15, Fri. – FAVORITE LAMB DISHES Chef Gino Gonzalez and Junjun de Guzman will do these simple and tempting lamb dishes for everyone to enjoy. Lamb Kaldereta, Italian Lamb Chops, Braised Lamb Shanks in Aromatic Vegetables, Roast Leg of Lamb, Pistachio Crusted Rack of Lamb with Sauces and Sidings to accompany. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,800.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 16, Sat. – BAKED PASTA. Chef Jill will teach some of her favorite baked pasta for Ph1,500.00 from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. Recipes include Classic Lasagne, Manicotti, Chicken Mushroom and Ham Casserole, Penne with Seafood and Asparagus and Baked Macaroni.

Nov. 17, Sun. – SIMPLE CHINESE MEAL FOR THE HOME 1. Learn exotic flavors and delicious meals with just the stir-fry method from Chef Gene's travel collection. Recipes include Black Sauce Spareribs, Three Colored Eggs, Steamed Crabs with Eggs, Oyster Omelette with Fermented Bean Curd, Spicy Dry Chicken Curry and Salted Fish and Chicken Fried Rice for P880.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 – 12:00 noon. NEW CLASS

Nov. 18, Mon. – JAPANESE RICE AND NOODLES. Recipes from Chef Aoki that include Tongkatsudon, Gyudon, Oyakodon, Yakitoridon, Zarusoba, Niku Udon and Wakame Soba for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 19, Tues. – KOREAN COOKING 1 Let Shim Kun Huh from Pusan, Korea invite us to her home cooking of Beancurd Banchan, Potato Banchan, Seaweed Soup, Stir-fried Mungsprouts, Lettuce with Fermented Bean Paste, Bulgogi with Dipping Sauce and Dried Anchovy Banchan for P1,200.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 20, Wed. – FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 3. Chef Junjun lights us the season with home-baked goodies for all to enjoy. Recipes include Pecan Cream Cheesies, Cinnamon Galore, Currant Cookies, Banana Nut Squares, Fudge Drops, Hawaiian Cookies and as a gift to his students – Festival Liquer Truffles for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 21, Thurs. – HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 1. Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Puttanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Toblerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,200.00 including ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 22, Fri. – THE GOOD EARTH CHEF'S SAMPLER 1. Chef Henry Cheung from Hongkong presents his favorites dishes like Oriental Shrimp Pizza; Chicken Casserole; Porkchop Shantong Style; Seafood Noodle (Oriental Kasone), Nanking Beef and Longgan Delight for P1,500.00 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 23, Sat. – THAI FAVORITES 1. Bangkok Chef Chariya Thaikupt will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Paad Thai, Bagoong Rice, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Tako in Pandan leaves. P980.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 24, Sun. – SIMPLE CHINESE MEAL FOR THE HOME 2. Dishes with exotic flavours from the east have never been this easy with Chef Gene's stir-fry method. Recipes include Deep Fried Bean Curd with Hidden Treasure; Bean Curd and Glass Noodle Soup; Steamed Eggs, Glass Noodles and Dried Shrimps; Fried Prawns with Curry Leaves; Fragrant Golden Chicken and Spicy Fish Fillet with Black Bean Sauce and Leeks for P880.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 – 12:00 noon. NEW CLASS

Nov. 25, Mon. – THE CRAB IS KING 1. Recipes from Chef Gene that can be prepared for the coming holidays, it includes Than-Long Crab, Crab Cakes, Stuffed Crab Bisque, Fried Salted Spicy Crab and Quiampong with Crabmeat. For P1,200.00 with all the ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 26, Tues. – CLASSIC HOLIDAY FEAST. Chef Gino will teach you simple and delicious holiday dishes served during Noche Buena. Recipes include Lengua con Cetas, Roast Rib-eye with Onion Gravy, Spanish Style Roast Turkey, Cannelloni and Prawns Thermidor for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 27, Wed. – A PEREGRINES' CHRISTMAS MEAL. In honor of the chefs who taught him, Chef Junjun demonstrates dishes Mark and MaryAnn Peregrines shared with him. The recipes include Blue Cheese, Salade de Crevette, Confit de Canard aux Grain de Sesame, Stuffed Courgettes, Saumon en Feuille de Choux and Bouche Noel (Christmas log using a flourless chocolate sponge cake). Recipes include all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

Nov. 28 & 29, Thurs. & Fri. – THAI STYLE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CARVERY. Jirachaya Thaikupt of Bangkok teaches the fine art of garnishing and edible decorative art for plates, platters and buffets. The course is open to caterers, culinary professionals and hobbyists. P5,000.00 good for 2 days from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. with Thai lunch and a carving knife included. NEW CLASS

Nov. 30, Sat. – THAI FAVORITES 2. The recipes from Thai Chef Chariya Thaikupt, Tom Kha Talay, Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce and Cucumber Salad, Roasted Duck Curry, Crispy Catfish with Green Mango Salad, Thai Halo-halo at P980.00 from 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

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October 31 to November 14, 2002

Coca Cola 2L
₱34.75 each
Reg. Price 36.00

Coca Cola 1.5L Trio Pack
₱58.75
Reg. Price 78.75

Pringles Cheez-Ums 6.75oz (184g)
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Pringles Sour Cream & Onion 6.75oz (184g)
₱56.75 each
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Walter High Fiber Whole Wheat Bread 400g
₱26.00 each
Reg. Price 30.00

Real Good Sandwich Loaf 450g
₱21.00 each
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Purefoods Chicken Nuggets Classic 230g
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Reg. Price 51.75

Swift Mighty Meaty Hotdog reg. 1kg
₱136.00 each
Reg. Price 137.50

CDO Corned Beef 150g
₱29.50 /2 cans

CDO Liver Spread 100g
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Mang Tomas All-around Sarsa Reg. 550g
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Nestlé Ice Cream Double Dutch 1.9L (.5gal)
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Dari-Creme Lite 250g
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Garlic*
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Sampaguita Cut
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2067 Series of 2002

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BYLYRA GARCELLANO

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jane Pauley, Dan Rather, Deidre Hall, Lynda Goodfriend

Happy Birthday: Focus on your personal life this year. Make things right once and for all. Sort through problems that have plagued you for some time. This can be an exciting and prosperous year for you, but first you must let go of the past. This is not the year to sit on the sidelines waiting for things to turn around. Your numbers are 1, 4, 20, 26, 32, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can make lucrative investments today. If you get involved in seminars or self-improvement projects, you may run into someone from your past. This might be just the connection you need at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't overspend on luxury items for your home. Don't react too quickly if someone you live with is hard to get along with. Do your own thing and give them space.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may have problems with foreigners. Try to avoid arguments with colleagues or employers. Tension will be stressful, so try to stay out of volatile situations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make major accomplishments at work. Present your ideas and don't be afraid to disagree with opposition. You've done your homework; proceed with confidence. Entertain potential clients.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be overly emotional. Try to spend time with a good friend. You just aren't thinking clearly when it comes to your love life. Step back and gain some perspective on the situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work at home if possible. You will not get along with colleagues or employers today. Your ability to see flaws in their work will only make matters worse. Concentrate on your own projects and workload.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get involved in debates that could lead to unemployment. Try to be diplomatic regardless of what is said. Work in large groups where you can hide in the crowd. Being invisible today is an asset.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Criticism has never been easy for you to swallow. This is the time for you to remain calm and ignore it. Be prepared to have someone oppose your objectives. Don't retaliate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Promote your ideas and enlist the support and help from those you encounter. You will be successful in your endeavors. Arguments with past lovers may be disturbing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Family members may present you with difficulties. Don't take the brunt of the responsibility; make sure that your siblings share in sorting out the dilemma. Gather family members together to deal with this situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Turn your stress into passion. Think about what you love and turn it into an outlet for your excess energy. You can please your mate by showing affection and letting little annoyances slip by.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may find that co-workers will twist your words around. Don't involve yourself in gossip. The less you say, the better. Work quietly on your own.

Birthday Baby: You will be intent on doing things right throughout your life. Your perfectionist quality will put you ahead of the crowd. You will use your vision and your charm to get the help you need. You will always want to be in control.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Provides the crew for
5 Coin toss
9 Shakespearean forest
14 Time-wasting bothers
15 Singer Horne
16 LSD guru
17 Actor born Halloween 1950
19 Short skirts
20 Kyoto sash
21 Hang down
22 See eye to eye
23 Goes to bed
25 Barbera's partner
27 $-due mail
28 Austere
31 __ and Gomorrah
34 Greek column type
35 Bunny move
36 Govt. agent
37 Pot sweeteners
38 Animal-loving grp.
39 Conger
40 Tilts
41 Gilbert and Teasdale
42 Spanish garrison
44 Grippe
45 Fix securely
46 Lament loudly
50 Enjoy
52 Ruhr Valley city
54 Dist. across
55 Honshu port
56 Poet born Halloween 1795
58 Place for eats
59 Lyric poems
60 Tiff
61 Smart-mouthed
62 Unadorned
63 WKRP and KACL

DOWN
1 Paramount
2 Sun-dried brick
3 Pitch near perfection
4 ID info
5 Got wider
6 Jay and family
7 Of India: pref.
8 Coin-op communicators
9 Fact book
10 Holds sway
11 Newscaster born Halloween 1931
12 Canal of song
13 Wall St. group
18 Computer insert
24 God's image
26 Black cuckoos
28 Saying
29 Smidgen
30 Finance dept. staff
31 Stoop element
32 Lag b'__, Jewish feast
33 Cowgirl born Halloween 1912
34 Breach-of-trust crime
37 Helper
38 Sorrento or Sorvino
40 Building of books
41 Moved furtively
43 Fumigates
44 Harvest blubber
46 Seat
47 Be flexible
48 Powerful one
49 Map rights
50 Makes a new lawn
51 One continent
53 Pop
57 Last letter of words?

By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD
10/31/02

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	M	B		R	Y	A	S		P	A	P	E	R
A	R	I	A		O	A	T	H		A	G	A	V	E
I	N	C	H		A	Z	O	R	E	S	O	R	E	S
L	E	E	R	E	D		Z	E	U	S		T	N	T
			A	R	K	S		D	R	E	I			
A	S	P	I	R	I	N	G		O	R	R	E	R	Y
T	H	A	N		L	O	A	M		S	E	T	A	E
L	A	I	R		L	O	T	U	S		L	U	N	A
A	N	N	A	S		D	E	L	E		A	D	D	S
S	E	E	I	N	G		S	E	R	E	N	E	S	T
			N	I	L	E		S	P	E	D			
O	S	S		P	E	N	A		E	N	L	I	S	T
S	W	E	D	E	N	E	D	E	N		A	S	I	A
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O	M	E	N	S		O	N	E	S		D	Y	E	S

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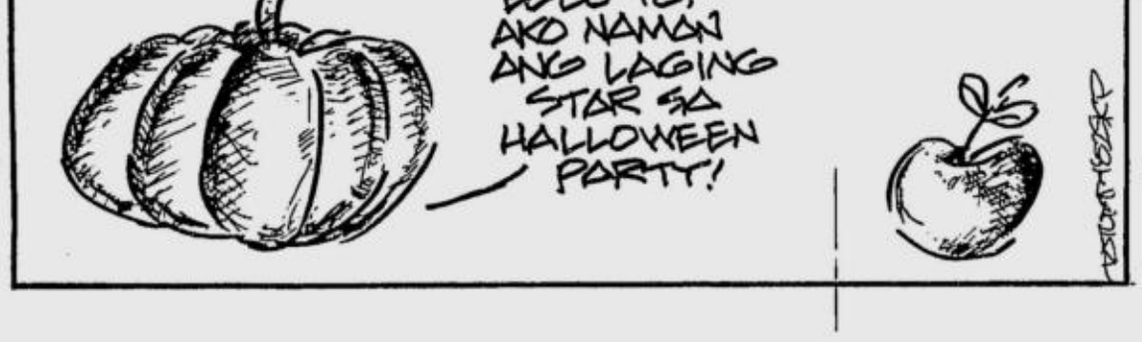
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

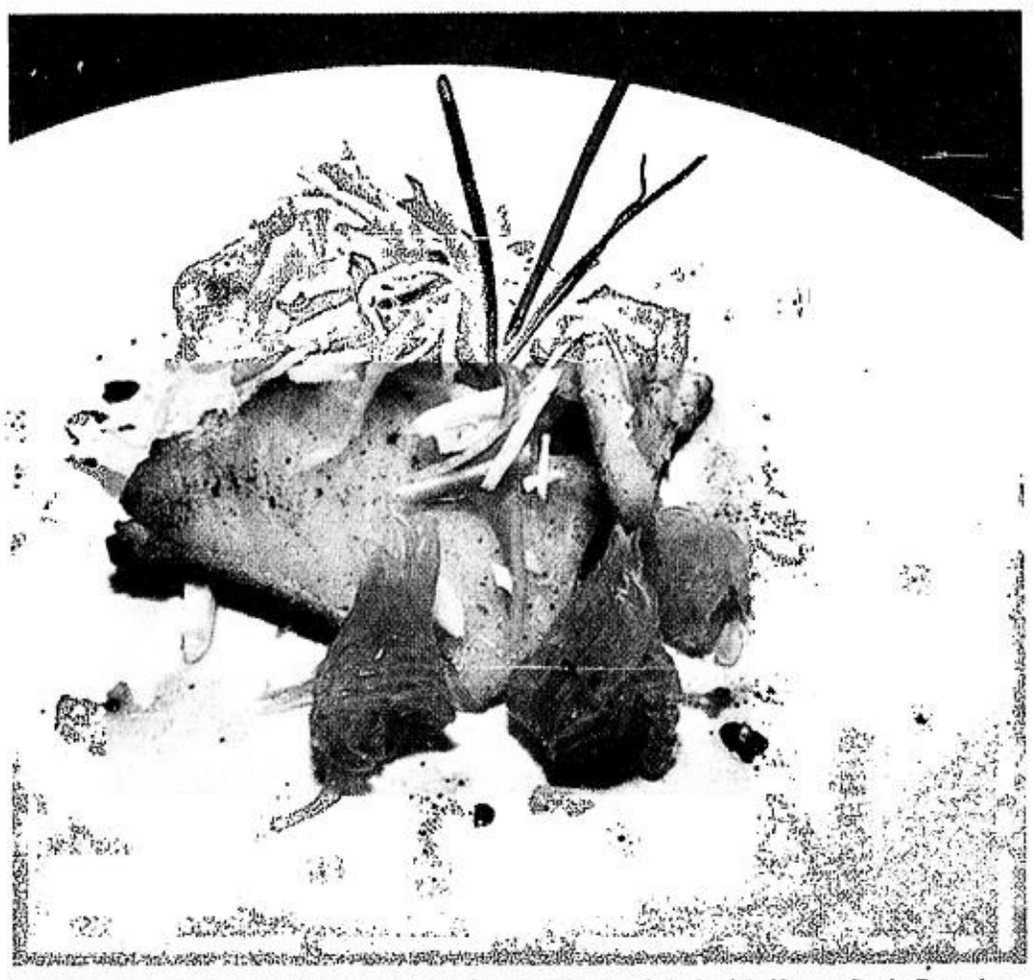
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





PAN-SEARED Seabass with Heart of Palm and Jicama Salad with Honey Patis Dressing

Cooking is like a bug that, once it gets into your blood, you'll never be the same again

GUAVA Flan with Pandan and Sesame Seeds Cream

Enduring 'romance' has own rewards

From page C8

Sign of the Anvil won the main restaurant trophy, L'Assiette d'Or (literally gold plate), for the Filipino Market Basket Competition.

The team's plates of Pan-fried Duck Breast with Kaldereta and Coconut Cream Sauce, Pan-seared Seabass with Heart of Palm, and Jicama Salad with Honey Patis Dressing and Guava Flan with Pandan and Sesame Seeds Cream impressed the judges with their simplicity of presentation and complexity of flavors and ingredients.

The group's Tropical Temple for Two (lemon syrup, mango purée, Bacardi rum, Absolut Citron, fresh sliced banana, grenadine) received a silver medal in the bar competition while The D.I. Strikes Again (white sugar, butter, fresh orange, grape slices, mango balls and fan, banana slices, Remy Martin, sugar cup, mint leaves, vanilla ice cream, sugar chard) bagged a bronze in the fruit flambé contest.

The Sign of the Anvil team included Honesto Botor, Frank Hoylar, Bernie Hinoctan, Cielito Yoma, Judith Esluzar, Raul Concepcion, Edison de la Cruz and Melchor de Guzman, Jr. "We won over Mandarin Oriental Manila by just one point," says Basila, who has been joining Chefs on Parade for six years and always won awards. For three consecutive years, Sign of the Anvil won the highest-ranking restaurant award in the same competition.

PAN-FRIED Duck Breast with Kaldereta and Coconut Cream Sauce

Like a bug

For Basila, cooking is like catching a bug. Once it gets into your blood, you'll never be the same again.

"As a chef," says Basila, "you'll feel fully alive, and you'll know the tremendous satisfaction of making people happy."

Many people become chefs without formal training and Basila is one of them. After graduating from high school, he came to Manila and worked as a dishwasher at Butterfly restaurant in UP Diliman. He was later employed at the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles, Bataan.

Basila is not self-conscious about his lack of training. He points out that even cooks, who complete a culinary arts program, usually spend several years learning on the job. Everyone begins at the bottom, then moves up. When they've learned all they can in one restaurant, they transfer to another restaurant. "There's a lot of job turnover in restaurants," Basila says. "But it has a purpose."

The chef's future started to take shape when he worked at Mandarin Oriental Manila in 1979 to 1983.

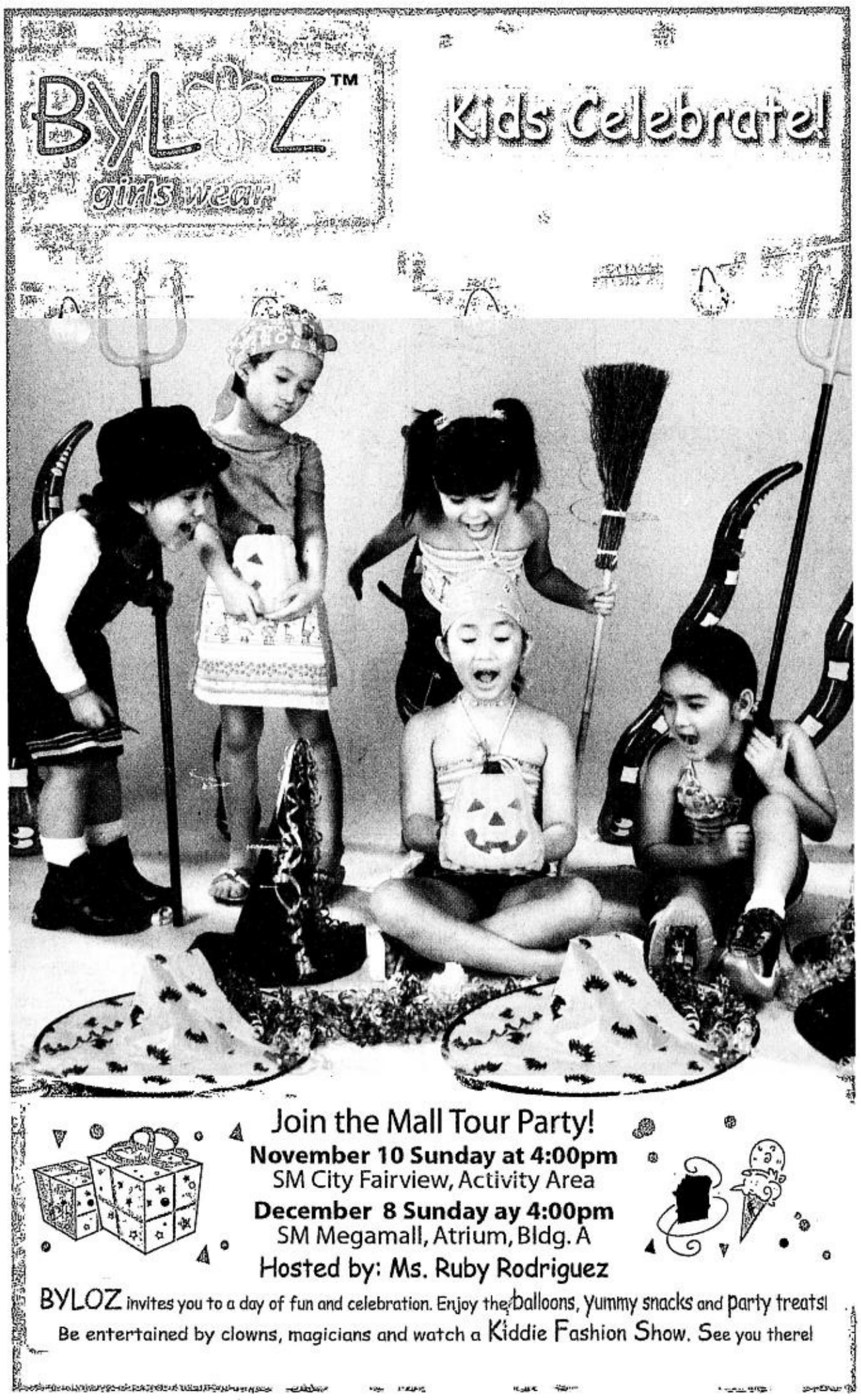
Former PCIBank president Antonio Ozaeta, a regular customer at the Mandarin's French restaurant, loved Basila's creations that he persuaded the chef to join Sign of the Anvil. The 49-year-old executive chef has been with the restaurant, located on the fifth floor of the Equitable PCI Bank Tower I on Makati Avenue, Makati City, for 18 years now.

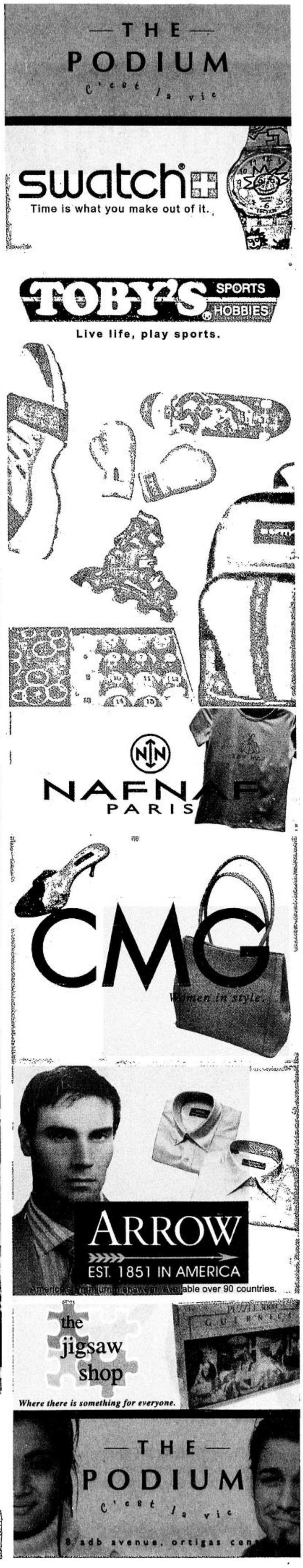
The way Basila runs his kitchen—the discipline, cleanliness, technique and intensity—was learned early in his career.

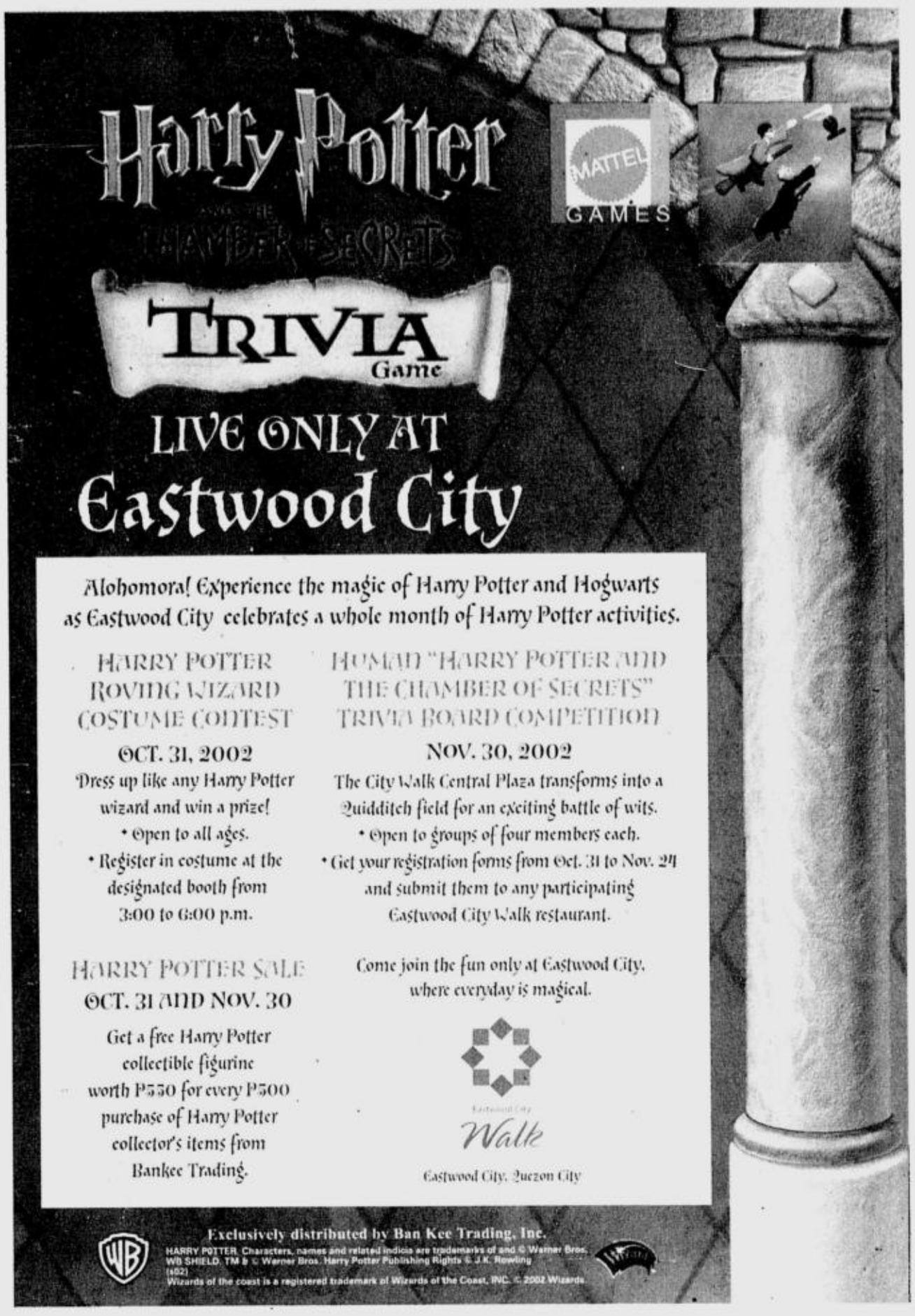
At Mandarin, along with basic techniques, he learned the underlying ethos of a classically run kitchen. He saw the importance of high values and passing on those values to others. "My stint at Mandarin made me understand that nothing should be taken for granted. That you have to earn every step," he says.

A native of Quezon province, Basila says that cooking gets into the blood. "My great romance started when I was very young, in my mother's kitchen. Food is love, to give and receive. I love all of it: long hours, late nights, and hard labor."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph







Enduring 'romance' has own rewards

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Johnny Villena

AT THE RECENT Chefs on Parade, executive chef Delfin Basila and his team of eight from

ENDURING/ p.C7

SIGN of the Anvil's executive chef Delfin Basila

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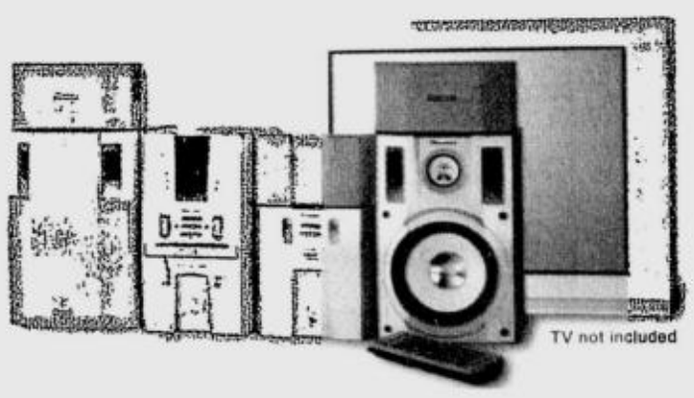

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LIFESTYLE

Doreen Fernandez food writing contest winners

STORY ON PAGE D2

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A father's legacy

By Maria Fatima O. Regala
UP Diliman
First-prize winner, Teacher Category

MY fondest memories of my late father include his rustic vegetable patch, the luscious smell of coconut cream-thickened *laing* cooking and the sound of his whistling as he worked in the kitchen.

My father was a native of Bicol, a region in the southern part of Luzon known for its lush volcanic soil and bountiful harvest of *pili* nut, coconut and *sili* (chili pepper). His expertise was whipping up the chili-hot and sinfully creamy dishes cooked with coconut milk (*guinataan*), for which the region is famous. His specialty was *laing*, a vegetable dish that uses the dark green leaves of the *gabi* (taro) plant made appetizingly fiery with *siling labuyo* (small chili peppers). His *laing* was a must-serve in all family get-togethers, and members based abroad were known to fight over the limited bottled *laing* my father sent as *pasalubong* (coming-home present).

Preparation for the *laing* started with my father going to his garden to hand-pick the *gabi* leaves. He chose by studying the color (of the leaves), turning them over and over as he moved among the plants. Once satisfied with his harvest, he wiped each leaf with a cheesecloth, taking time to inspect each leaf one more time for any blemish he might have overlooked. Then he tore each leaf into inch-wide strips with light fluid motion. He said that a heavy hand could ruin the dish because that would release whatever it was that made one itch after eating the cooked leaves. My father then laid out the strips on a large *bilao* (flat, round woven tray) for sun-drying, a process he said facilitated the infusion of the coconut cream into the leaves during cooking.

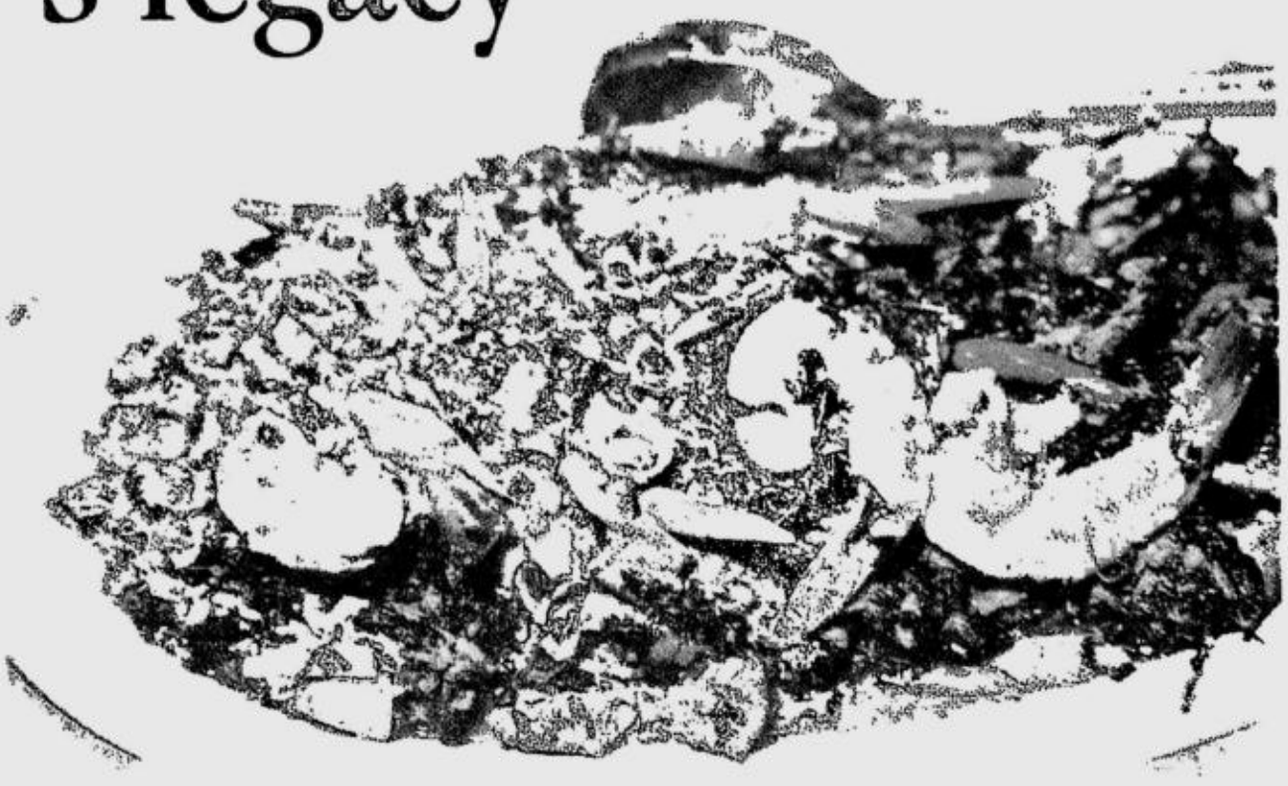
While waiting for the leaves to dry, my father prepared the *niyog* (mature coconut) to extract the cream and milk. The secret of a good *laing*, according to my father, was the quality of the coconut cream and so he was always focused and serious during this process. He would crack the coconut open then grate the meat off its shell by using the *kudkuran* (a low straddle bench with iron teeth on one end). The *kakang gata* (cream) was then extracted during the first pressing and then the *gata* (milk) on the second pressing.

Cooking began when he combined the *gata* and the ground pork in a *kawali* (Filipino wok) and flavored them with local aromatics such as shallots and ginger, cut into fine strips, and crushed garlic cloves. He spiced the mixture with *labuyo* and seasoned with *bagoong alamang* (shrimp paste). When there was no supply of *bagoong*, he substituted *daing na labahita* (dried, salted surgeonfish) that resulted in a fuller, bolder saltiness, much more than rock salt or fish sauce could. He simmered all that for several minutes, letting the meat cook thoroughly. My father then added the *gabi* leaves and slowly simmered the mixture while constantly stirring to prevent the coconut milk from curdling. The milk would be reduced to a third of its original volume. This was when shelled and deveined prawns were added. He finished the dish off by adding the coconut cream. The *laing* was cooked to almost dry consistency, which our Tagalog mother called *pinakatihan* or *pinatuyuan*. All through the cooking, my father never covered the pot to give the dish a rich, deep green color making it visually appetizing.

The *laing* would be almost ready when the heady smell of steaming coconut permeated the rooms. The best part was eating the *laing* with steamed rice, chicken and pork *adobo* and fried *bangus* belly, *kamayan*-style or eating with the hands.

When father was taken ill, it was the only time he allowed our nanny to cook the *laing*. She had assisted my father through the years and she knew the procedures by heart. People never noticed the changing of the guards; for them the *laing* tasted as good as ever.

My father passed away almost 10 years ago, but his *laing* still provides comfort to people who share his love for the simple pleasures of life. Each time the familiar aroma of coconut and *gabi* envelopes the house, I feel my father is out there in the kitchen, happily whistling.



My Bicol Express

Writing about the food closest to their hearts, the winners memorialize Doreen Fernandez and her legendary fondness for Filipino food, its variety and its zest for life

By Eda Veniola Brojan
UP Diliman
Runner-up, Student Category

SITTING in my dormitory room so far away from my home town of Guinobatan, Albay, I knew that my siblings were at home. It's not a typhoon that's keeping them there. It's our town fiesta (and this year), the fiesta was called Pagsu'wak. It meant overflowing, (which) described both the crowd of people lining the streets to watch the parade and the plates with fiesta food.

The serene green of the banana leaves that served as tablecloth set off, well, the colorful hues of the local fare. Bicolanos generally love spicy food, putting sliced red *lada* (chili) into viands moist with coconut milk. My favorite is the Bicol Express. I am told that this dish isn't actually from Bicol but from Laguna, where a *carinderia* owner (supposedly) named this spicy fare after the train going to my province, which passed through the tracks near her place. Another tale says the name (refers to) how fast one can bolt (from his chair) to get a drink of water to douse the heat in one's mouth after partaking of the dish.

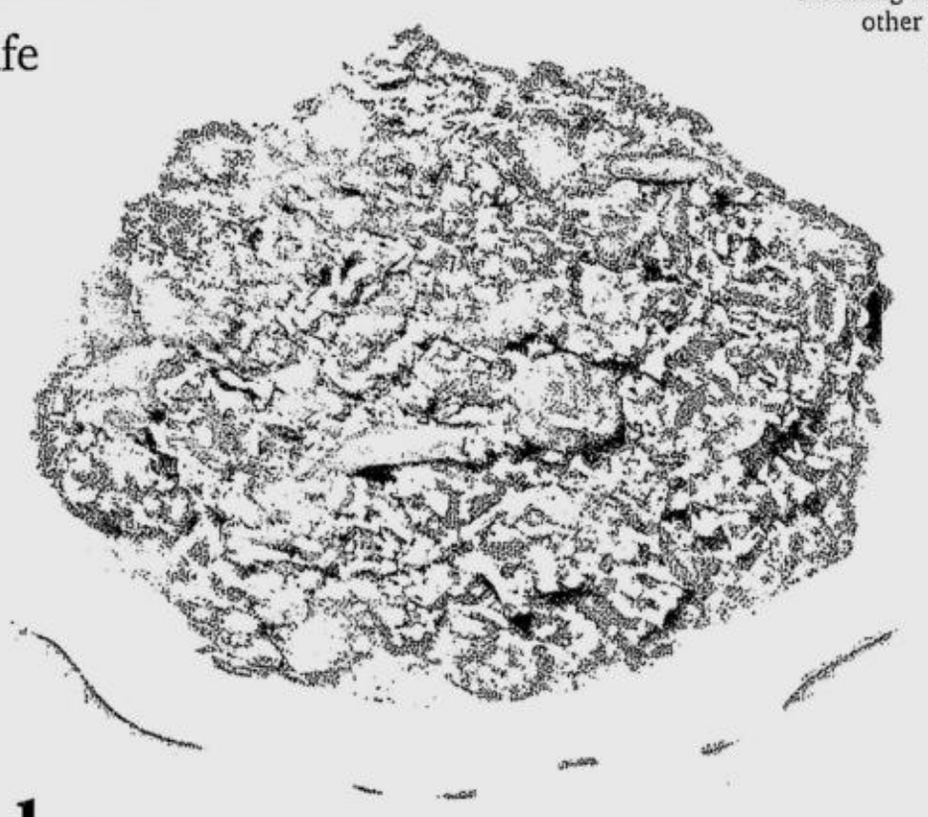
Although it's true that there are several versions of the Bicol Express, the main ingredients of *bagoong* (fermented shrimps), coconut milk, garlic, onion, ginger, and red and green chilies will always be there. The *bagoong*, which we call *balaw*, is cleaned by removing stray pieces of shell and other impurities, placed in a strainer (and) running water is passed through it. The *balaw* should be drained, but not squeezed, to remove the water (to preserve the) flavor. Preparing the coconut milk involves grating the meat of a mature coconut (*niyog*), then adding a little water to the meat to extract the thickest milk.

My family's version includes chopped dried pork rind and some available vegetable like *sitaw* (string bean) and *perkoles* (*patane*, lima bean). The pork rind is prepared a day or two before the dish is cooked. The pork skin is stripped from the fat, cleaned, salted and sun-dried under a mesh net to keep away pests. The next day, the dried rind is washed to remove the salt and impurities and then boiled. When the rind turns a light translucent shade of yellow, it is drained and sliced into small strips.

Cooking begins when the coconut milk is poured into a deep pan, then left unstirred until it simmers. The milk will be so thick that the bubbles won't break. Slices of rind and then the *balaw*, along with the chopped garlic, onion and ginger are added to the milk. No salt is needed because of the rind and *balaw*. The mixture is simmered, stirring occasionally to prevent the milk from curdling. When most of the milk has evaporated, the cut *sitaw* and *perkoles* are added. When the coconut milk has turned into oil and the vegetables are cooked, the chilis are added. In three minutes, the dish is done.

The aroma of the zesty Bicol Express is enough to make one feel full. The eyes are pleased with the blend of colors—the green of the *sitaw* and chili, the red of the *labuyo*, the yellow of the pork rind, the pale pink of the *balaw* and the white traces of the coconut milk. Served with steaming rice, I forget about all the other fiesta food (and try to) find my own corner where I can eat in peace away from my pesky siblings and cousins.

I can smell the aroma and almost taste my favorite Bicol Express as I sit here in my dorm room, miles away from Guinobatan and the town fiesta.



Nutty and nice

By Jenny Lou A. Orro
UP Diliman
First prize, Student Category

I FELL in love with the *kasuy* (cashew nut) when my family moved from congested Quezon City to the airy hills of Antipolo. On Sundays after Mass, shouts from vendors can be heard urging everyone to try *bagong lutong kasuy* (newly roasted cashew). With the cold morning air brushing against the cheek, who would not find comfort from this warm crunchy treat?

For many people, *kasuy* can be expensive. P10 will only give you a shot-glassful. But for those who understand the journey that each piece of *kasuy* goes through before landing into one's mouth, P10 is a small price to pay for the amount of work involved.

Contrary to what many people know, the supply of *kasuy* doesn't come from Antipolo but from as far as Palawan and Bataan. Yet it is in Antipolo where the nut is processed and hence, made ready for eating.

The first step in the process is to expose the nut to the sun for a day. *Pagbibilad* or sun-drying ensures that the nut is dry so that it is easier to crack the shell. The dried nuts are then placed on a sifter (*bistayan*). The sifter is really used as a container on which workers manually sort out the nuts, removing the rotten from the fresh.

The next process involves cracking the shells open. Tools are used because the shells are quite hard; they also have a strong acid-like chemical harmful to the skin. It is important to note that the workers improvised these tools.

Tools of the trade

The *biyakan* is a bisecting tool made of a blade that is similar to the bolo though a bit shorter. The tip of the sharp end is attached to a piece of wood, about 3-inches wide and 6-inches long, so the *biyakan* can be held at both ends. The *kasuy* is held in place by two pieces of wood about an inch high nailed parallel to each other. The *biyakan* is brought down on the shell to crack it. Once the shell is cracked, the next step is to extract the nut. This is done with a *pagsungkit*, made from an umbrella wire with the other end shaped to resemble a spoon. The *pagsungkit* then frees the nut from its shell.

The nuts go through a cooking process inside a brick oven (*pugon*) to eliminate the sap (*dagta*), which contains an acid that can burn skin on contact or the tongue when the *kasuy* is eaten without undergoing heating. It also facilitates the removal of the stubborn peel. Once this is done, workers then place the *kasuy* on the sifter to separate whole and broken pieces, which are then grouped accordingly.

Peeling (*pagbabalat*) is the next step. It's quite a difficult process because there is no tool available so workers have to use their nails. Though the drying and heating processes have made this step easier, peeling still requires a lot of patience and time.

The final phase is the final cleaning, or *patsing*, where the *kasuy* goes through the last sifting. Each piece that exhibits a dark burnt color is inspected if the color is only due to the cooking process or if it covers the whole nut, a sure sign that the nut is rotten. This is also the time when any remaining skin on the nut is removed.

After all that, the *kasuy* can finally be roasted.

Over the years, my appetite for *kasuy* has grown together with the retail price of the nut. Antipolo, the once-quiet town, has now progressed into a busy city. Things have changed indeed, but the *kasuy* will remain as the symbol of the diligence and dedication of the Antipolo people.

Doreen Fernandez food writing contest winners

WINNERS of the first Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Award for Food Writing were announced in the closing ceremonies of the recent Chefs on Parade 2002. First-prize honors went to Jenny Lou A. Orro in the student category and Maria Fatima O. Regala in the teacher category. Runner-up was student Eda Veniola Brojan. All the winners were from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. The awards were handed out by Della G. Besa, a sister of the late food critic.

Judges were writers Cora Alvina (National Museum director), Karina Bolasco (Anvil Publishing assistant general manager), Norma Chikiamco (food editor), Mol Fernando (Meralco assistant treasurer), Felice Sta. Maria (INQUIRER columnist) and Michaela Fenix (Today food editor).

The first-prize winners received special glass trophies designed by Bobby Castillo of Seagull Glasswork. All the winners and finalists received books from Anvil Publishing, National Book Store, CCA Culinary Store, Bookmark and Glenda Barretto. There were also magazine subscriptions and copies of Cook, Celebrity Recipes, Flavors, Food and Emerald Headway.

The first Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Award for Food Writing accepted as participants only students and teachers in hotel and restaurant management courses. Next year, the competition will be open to everyone.

DELLA G. Besa (third from left) with the winners of the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Award for Food Writing: Eda Veniola Brojan (runner-up, student), Maria Fatima O. Regala (first prize, teacher), and Jenny Lou A. Orro (first prize, student). Flanking them are Michaela Fenix (Food Writing committee chair; extreme left) and Myrna Segismundo (chair, Chefs on Parade; extreme right).

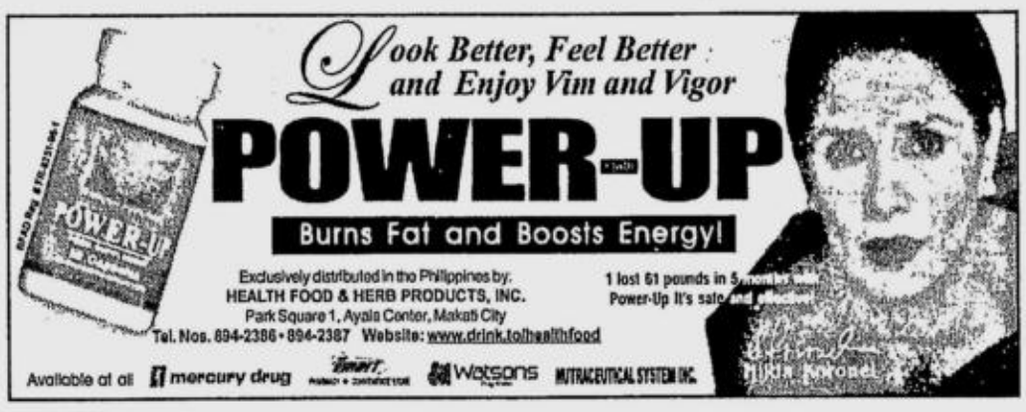
Traveling woes and other consumer concerns

From page D4

dicial courts where the case was heard, the US-based company won in the Bureau of Patent, Trademarks and Technology Transfer, as well as the Court of Appeals. However, it came as a surprise to them when the Supreme Court reversed the decision by a vote of 3-2, concluding that the local manufacturer "is not confusingly similar to Lee USA jeans."

Uy added that the original Lee USA jeans are available at department stores like Shoemart, Robinsons, Ever, Isetann, Lee boutiques and authorized dealers.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph



NEW INTERBOA BOARD SWORN IN

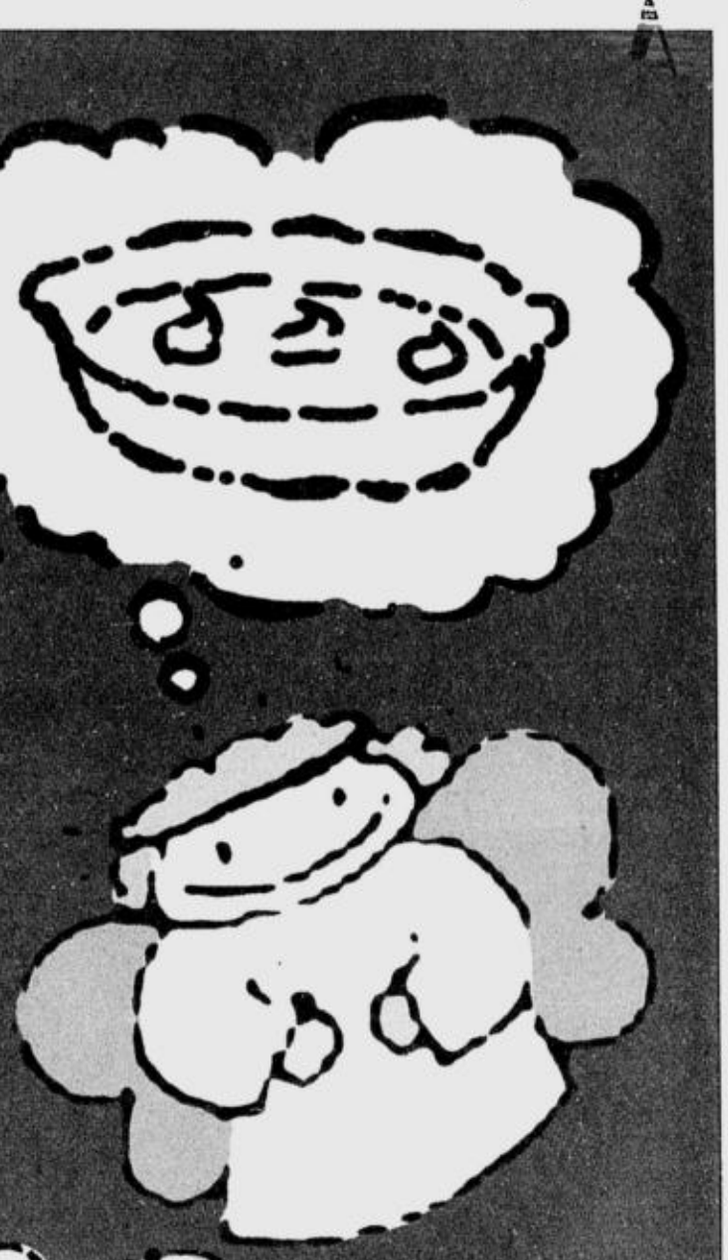
DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza (extreme left) administers the oath of office to the 2002/2003 Board of Trustees of the Intercity Bus Operator's Association (INTERBOA): president, Aladin Simundac of Saint Rose Transport (starting second from left); vice president, Elena S. Ong, Jell and ES Transports; secretary, Arturo Katindig, United Workers; treasurer, Josephine Sanchez, Lucky Seven; auditor, Arsenia Torres, Exodus Express; directors, Irene Francisco, Bulacan Express, and Edmund Souza, BBL Transport; auditor, Eduardo Chan, Marlea Transport; and directors, Jose Aguilo, Philtourister and James Oviedo, Ferminas Express.

ADVT

Julius Maggi Kitchen

NOW COOKING

Heavenly Desserts



Get a taste of paradise as Chef Jill Sandique, blue ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, whips up some dessert magic using NESTLÉ Cream, CARNATION Evap, and CARNATION Condensada. Then spread your wings and get creative as a TESDA instructor demonstrates how to make angels of all shapes and sizes. Catch this event on November 7, 12, 14, 21 & 23. Classes are from 2-5 PM at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For reservations, please call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

Get 3 chances to win special prizes with Nestlé Bring-a-Friend, Lucky Labels, and Buy & Win promos! Ask for the details when you make your reservations.

SPECIAL OF THE MONTH

Join Myrna Segismundo, restaurateur, party cookbook author, food expert and party planner extraordinaire on November 9 & 16 as she teaches how to plan great holiday parties. For inquiries, please call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

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JOIN THE NESTLÉ CLUB. Fill out the coupon below so we can send you the Nestlé Club form to complete -- our way of getting to know you better. Mail to P.O. Box 1163, Makati Central Post Office or Fax to 890-5012

For more information, please call 898-0061 *(Mondays to Fridays, 8am - 6pm)*

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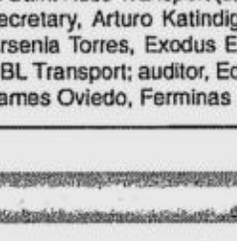

A DRESS UP YOUR SHIRT COMPETITION

OCTOBER 1, 2002 - DECEMBER 15, 2002

GRAND PRIZE

P100,000.00

1. OPEN TO ALL MALE AND FEMALE, FILIPINO, AGES 15 - 25 YEARS OLD AND NON - PROFESSIONAL (THOSE CURRENTLY NOT EMPLOYED AS ARTIST, DESIGNER AND OTHER RELATED POSITIONS IN THE ARTS AND FASHION INDUSTRY). BUY ANY OF THE SIX (6) DESIGNS OF THE "PEACE OF ART" SHIRT WORTH P199.75 FOR THE BOY'S AND P179.75 FOR THE GIRLS FROM BUM EQUIPMENT AND BUM GIRL (GI) AVAILABLE IN MAJOR DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE AND DRESS IT UP AND INTERPET IT TO THE LOOK OF THE 70'S FASHION.
2. ALL ENTRIES SHOULD RETAIN THE ORIGINAL BUM EQUIPMENT AND BUM GIRL SHIRT AND PRINT. DECORATIONS TO BE USED TO DRESS UP THE SHIRTS SHOULD BE NON-PERISHABLE. BUM EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGES, LOSSES AND DELAYS INCURRED DURING TRANSIT OF ENTRY. MANNER OF DECORATIONS AND MATERIALS ARE LIMITLESS BUT THE ORIGINAL PRINTED ARTWORK AND SHIRT SHOULD STILL BE IDENTIFIABLE.
3. ALL ENTRIES SHOULD HAVE AN ORIGINAL OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM WITH THE PARTICIPANTS NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NO, AGE AND THEIR AFFIXED SIGNATURE FOUND IN EVERY PACKAGE OF THE "PEACE OF ART" SHIRT AND THEIR CORRESPONDING ENTRY. NO XEROX OR PRINTED COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL FORM WILL BE ACCEPTED. A PERFORATED PORTION OF THE FORM WILL BE DETACHED BY THE PARTICIPATING PARTY AND SHALL BE A PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION IN CASE HIS OR HER ENTRY WINS.
4. THE PEACE OF ART DESIGN COMPETITION OFFICIALLY STARTS OCTOBER 1, 2002. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES WILL BE ON DECEMBER 15, 2002. ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUM EQUIPMENT OFFICE, 4th FLOOR JADE BUILDING, #86 CHICO ROAD, CORNER MAC ARTHUR HIGHWAY, BARANGAY POTRERO, MALABON CITY, METRO MANILA. PERSONALLY OR THRU MAIL. ALL PERSONALLY SUBMITTED ENTRIES SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE BUM EQUIPMENT OFFICE BEFORE 12:00 MIDNIGHT OF DECEMBER 15, 2002 WHILE ALL MAILED ENTRIES SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY BUM EQUIPMENT OFFICE BEFORE 12:00 MIDNIGHT OF DECEMBER 14, 2002. ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE PLACED IN A 10" x 15" x 3" inches SEALED BOX.
5. JUDGING WILL BE ON DECEMBER 17, 2002. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A MAJOR NEWSPAPER AND NOTIFIED BY REGISTERED MAIL ON DECEMBER 18, 2002. ALL NON- WINNING ENTRIES CAN BE CLAIMED WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER FROM BUM EQUIPMENT HEAD OFFICE.

FORWARD MEG HERITAGE VIDEO PINK

AVAILABLE IN ALL MAJOR DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

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PER-DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 3724 SERIES OF 2002

Traveling woes and other consumer concerns

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

M.E. REALA (not her real name) from Santa Monica, California, advised *balikbayans* to be well informed about immigration laws before going to the Philippines. She came home for the first time after 30 years, but in her excitement, she forgot to bring her green card. What was even worse, her permanent resident card expired when she was in the Philippines. She wrote the following letter so that other *balikbayans* may learn from her "stressful experience."

"I am going to cherish my two-week reunion with relatives in the Philippines. But what transpired at the immigration counter at the airport after I had checked in everything for my return flight to the US was a harrowing experience that spoiled part of the fun. In my excitement to go to the Philippines, I forgot to bring my green card! Because of the oversight, I missed my departure flight and couldn't leave the Philippines for another two weeks to await the renewal of my card. I'd already given away my pesos. And, by the time I was finally cleared after two more weeks to fly home, I had reached my credit card limit, having paid for my extended stay at the hotel plus penalties and fees."

She advised *balikbayans* who may experience the same predicament to call the US Embassy immigration office for help and advice. For more information, here's the website to visit: http://www.ins.usdog.gov/graphics/howdoi/renew.htm.

We downloaded the following text from the website:

"If you are outside the United States, and your permanent resident card will expire within six months (but you will return within one year of your departure from the United States, and before the card expires), you should file for your renewal card as soon as you return to the US. If you are outside of the US at the time of the card's expiration, and you have not applied for the renewal card prior to your departure, you should contact the nearest American Consulate, INS office or Port of Entry before attempting to file Form 1-551 card."

Expect, of course, to pay filing various fees.

Tighter airport security

If you're going to travel to the US, prepare yourself for more stressful security procedures at the airport—identity checks, security searches and additional fees. Airline passengers reportedly have to shell out from $2.50 per flight surcharge and up to $10 per round trip for security upgrades. The public is advised to expect more delays and fuss as the federal government takes over passenger screening at checkpoints starting Nov. 19.

Here's more information we clipped from the Consumer Reports, a US-based magazine published by the Consumers Union:

- Your personal belongings—and bare feet—may be displayed before strangers. Avoid wearing shoes (clothes and hand-carried items) that can set off detectors. For example, belt with metal buckles, heavy jewelry, shoes with (metal) buckles, or even bras with metal underwires. Select footwear that is easy to remove and put back on.
- Airplane security is being stepped up. Expect planes with video cameras so pilots can see what's gong on in the cabin.
- There are efforts at the federal level to arm pilots.
- The passenger sitting next to you may be a sky marshal. The government is training thousands of men and women to carry guns and fly anonymously in the passenger cabin.
- Disobeying an order from the flight crew could mean trouble! Crews are now instructed to rigidly enforce rules that might have been relaxed in the past. A belligerent passenger could cause a plane to make unscheduled landing.
- Traveling by ground transport (if you're in the US) may be faster than flying.
- Expect long lines when driving between the US and Canada. Carry your driver's license and birth or naturalization certificate, and passport. Mexican border officials require a driver's license and proof of citizenship.
- For cruises, allow more time to embark in the home port. All passengers and crew are now required to pass through metal detectors. All carry-on and checked baggage are inspected by port officials.
- Prepare for inspections at some theme parks and museums. Visitors are now required to open their belongings for inspection.

Travelers to the US are advised by Consumer Reports to plan well ahead of flight schedule to ensure a smooth trip. Check news about destination and ask carrier about check-in time.

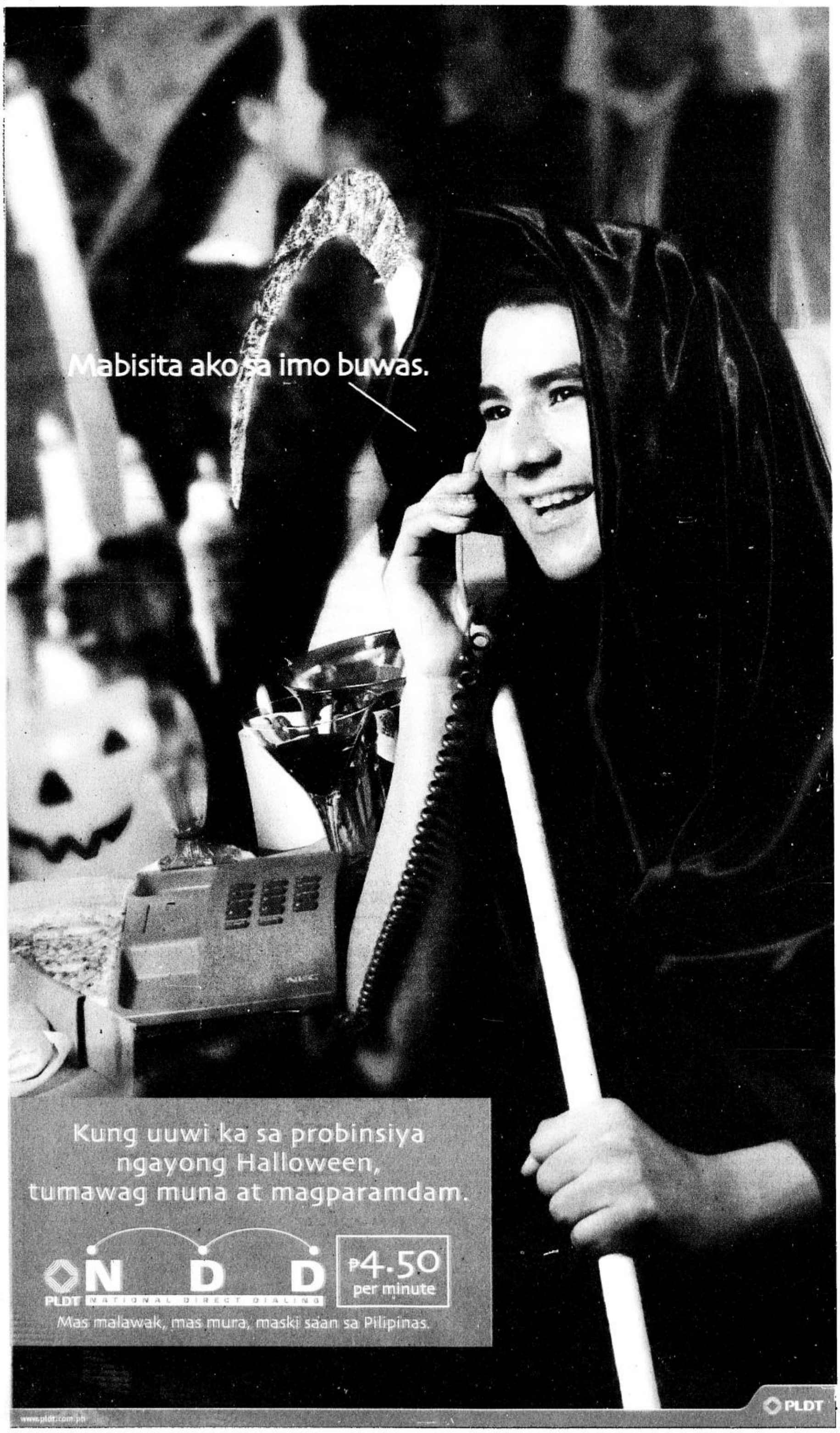
No local US Lee jeans

Authentic American Apparel Inc. informs the public that it is the sole licensee of Lee Denim USA and the only one authorized to operate the business in the Philippines. We recently forwarded a reader's complaint to the company about a local jeans that carried the name Lee in its logo. Here's the reply of Kristine Uy, assistant to the president of Authentic American Apparel.

"We commiserate with your reader, Rhoderick Heaven Torres, who bought a pair of Mr. Lee jeans, thinking it was the original Lee jeans from the USA. For the information of the public, Lee USA is an imported brand that dates back to 1889, when it was first made in Kansas by H.D. Lee Company. And we have been authorized to operate the local business since 1996. Such brands (like Stylistic Mr. Lee) are local brands that look similar to Lee USA jeans. Lee USA is the USA franchise holder and not Stylistic Mr. Lee."

According to Uy, the H.D. Lee USA has filed an infringement case against a copier of the original jeans. Of the three administrative ju-

TRAVELING/ p.D3



Special Treat

Handling food-to-go safely

Happy Halloween!!! It's All Saints Day tomorrow and no matter whether we are headed to the memorial parks to pay respect to our dear departed or just going out to the suburbs to get away from the busy metropolis, there is a single denominator that runs through all of our travels – F-O-O-D!

Pack and Store Safely. Be sure to keep raw meats and poultry wrapped separately from cooked foods. Assume that water available is not safe for drinking, so bring along lots of bottled or canned drinks and water.

At the site. Keep hands and all utensils clean when preparing food. Use disposable towelettes to clean hands. It is best to limit food exposure to just an hour. Always store left over food in a cooler with ice.

Clean up. Once done with dining, bag up all your trash for proper disposal. This prevents flies and other pests from swarming your place or relaxation.

Recipe

PUREFOODS EMBUTIDO IN PANDESAL WITH MAYO MUSTARD DRESSING

You will need:
1 piece **PUREFOODS READY-TO-EAT-EMBUTIDO**, sliced into thin rounds
4 pieces pandesal, large
Iceberg lettuce, cut into serving sizes

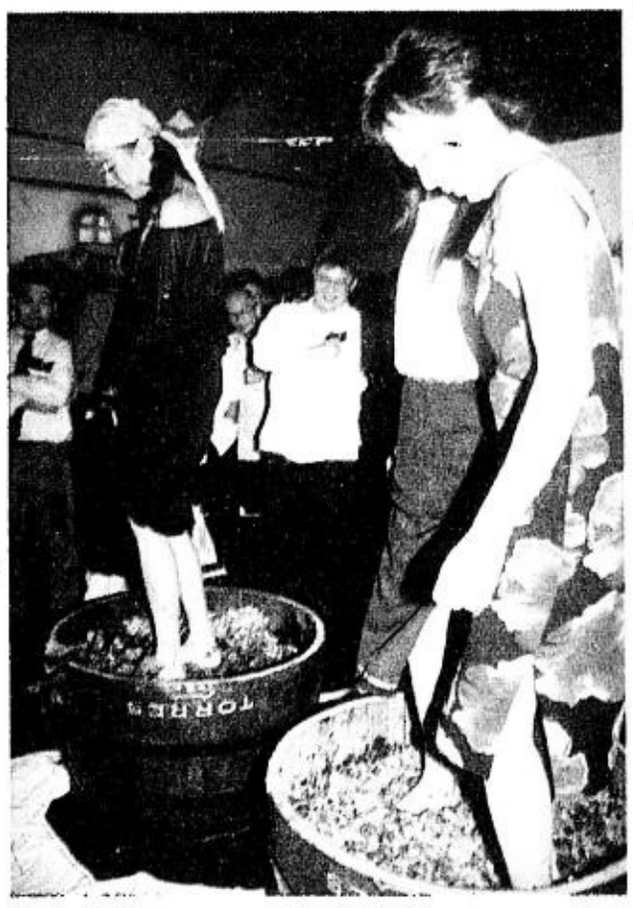
Dressing
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons prepared mustard
salt and white pepper to taste

Procedure
For the dressing, pour all ingredients into a bowl. Mix well. Season with salt and pepper. To assemble, spread dressing onto split side of pandesal. Place lettuce and arrange PUREFOODS READY-TO-EAT EMBUTIDO slices on it. Makes 4 servings.

San Miguel Pure Foods

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE



GRAPE-STOMPING. Making wine the old-fashioned way.

The NBC Tent became a vibrant slice of the typical Barcelona plaza life, recreating the vibrant cafes of the beautiful city's La Plaza Mayor

Manileños reunite with 'Mother Spain'

By Corito Fiel
Contributor

"TEN at the Tent" was the highlight of the recent Spanish Week that brought back prodigal Manileños into the bosom of Mother Spain. The week reintroduced, in these parts, a generous offering of Iberian arts, culture, films, food—and at the NBC Tent on Oct. 10, the best of wines and brandy by Torres, an old, venerable Spanish institution in quality wine-making dating back to the 17th Century.

Lashing rains hardly stopped almost 2,000 revelers from storming the Torres cocktails, gaily lasting way past the witching hour. As one guest remarked, "This is my longest cocktail ever." Indeed, the night rained goodies flown directly from sunny España—truffles, *manchego* cheese, *jubago* ham, *jamon serrano*, to-die-for chorizos and *tapas, tapas, tapas* merrily chugging along in an endless train.

A feast. A bacchanalia. A storm of a party. A long, long night of eating, greeting, hugging, dancing, making conversation, renewing and kindling old and new friendships. Guests drank, quaffed, sipped—embracing the best of Torres—the Cordillero, the Manso de Velasco, the Torres Gran Corona, the Mas de Plana, especially the very fine Vina Esmeralda.

The NBC Tent was transformed into a vibrant slice of the typical Barcelona plaza life, recreating the vibrant cafés of that beautiful city's La Plaza Mayor. Prancing around were pantomime artists in facemasks. Girls stomped on vats of succulent grapes, the way wine was made for centuries before machines and computers took over.

John Lesaca wove magic with his violin. Emma Estrada danced a fiery flamenco. Tessa Prieto-Valdes, plucky in shocking pink ostrich feathers, posed for the artist De Pio while husband Dennis discussed business and politics with the likes of Time Magazine's Nelly Sindayen, polo player David de Padua, the National Museum's Tata Poblador and INQUIRER

MANILEÑOS/ p.E3

RACKS and racks of the best of Torres wines

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Unbeatable retail therapy + more!!!
Over 100 booths. Featuring 30 all-new first time bazaristas. Plus, a special Heaven Sent Food Festival presented by Gourmet Chefs of the San Miguel Pure Foods Corporation.
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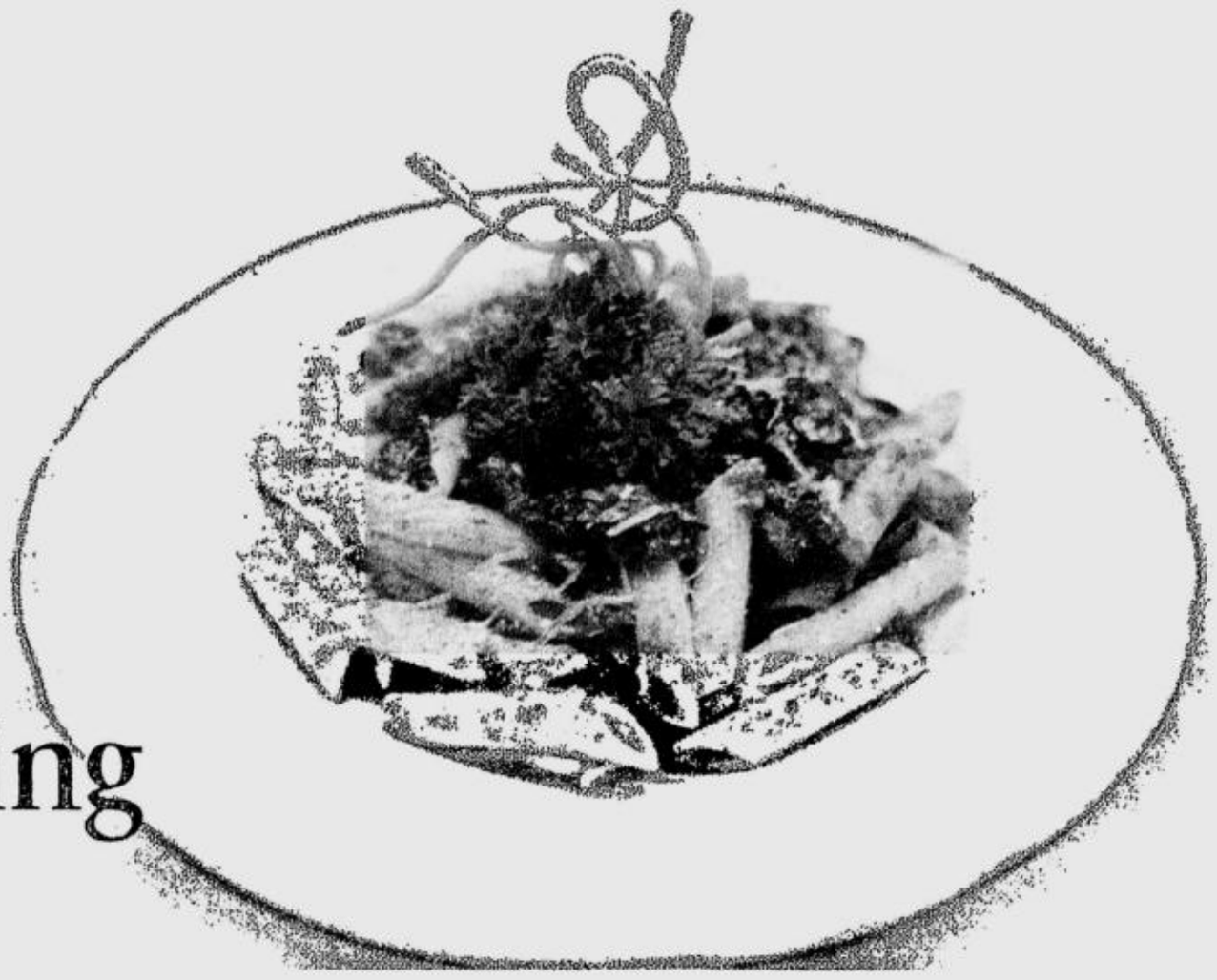
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • CUBAO • HARRISON PLAZA • ALABANG • CEBU

PRAWNS roasted in butter, olive oil, capers and assorted herbs



PENNE Puttanesca

Italian place making people 'crazy'

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

The minimalist look of the restaurant is conducive to the enjoyment of a leisurely meal

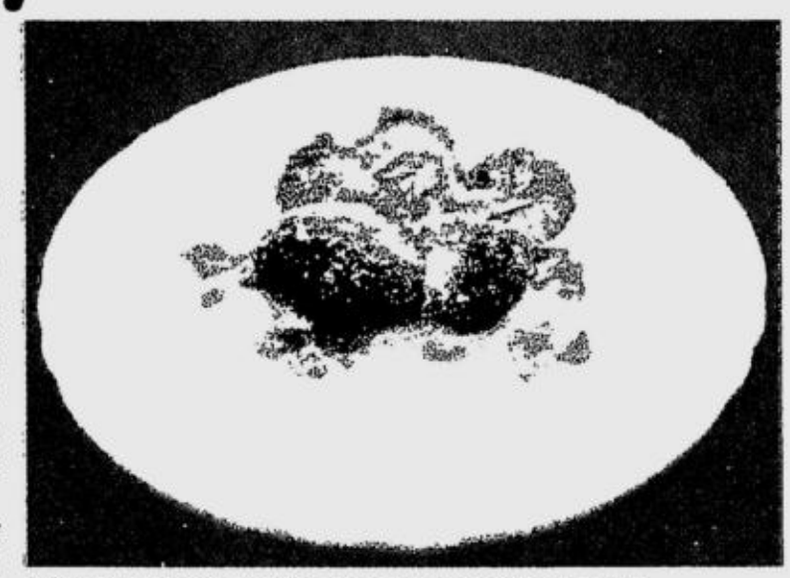
"GO crazy for pizza, pasta and gelato" is the slogan of this new Italian restaurant at the entrance of Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center. Only 10 months old, Piu Pazzo is beginning to enjoy the fruits of its unique slogan as seen in the daily bustle of lunch and dinner crowds at Piu Pazzo, which also proves that Filipinos have gone for Italian food big time.

Makati yuppies, mallgoers and guests of nearby Hotel Inter-Continental and Oakwood Premier frequent Piu Pazzo for its wide selection of antipasti, panini and pasta served in a modern and comfortable setting.

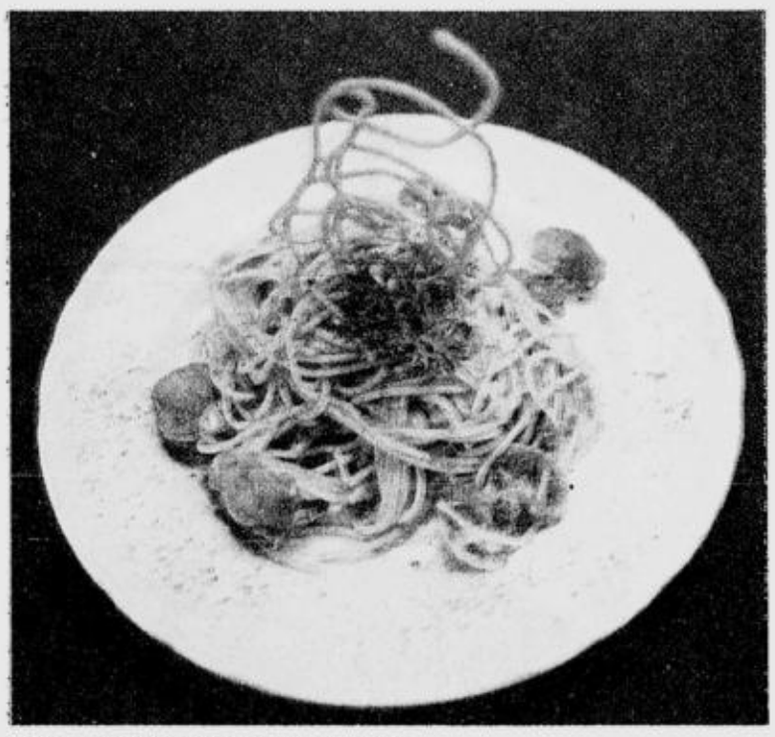
Piu Pazzo (tel. 757-2986/87) is a cozy place where one can really savor Italian dishes in the right atmosphere. It does not have the stifling air of over-modified interiors. The tables and chairs sets combine wood and stainless steel. Upon entering the restaurant, one is embraced by a feeling of warmth even if the bar partially blocks the view of the interior. But past the bar, diners find a spacious dining area. The bright yellow walls create a rich, vibrant atmosphere. Various paintings hang on the walls, which are for sale. Seven vertical mirrors line one side of the wall making the area look and feel larger.

The color combination of orange and yellow is further brightened by warm light. The minimalist look of the restaurant, designed by Lisa Antonio and Monching de los Reyes, is conducive to the enjoyment of a leisurely meal.

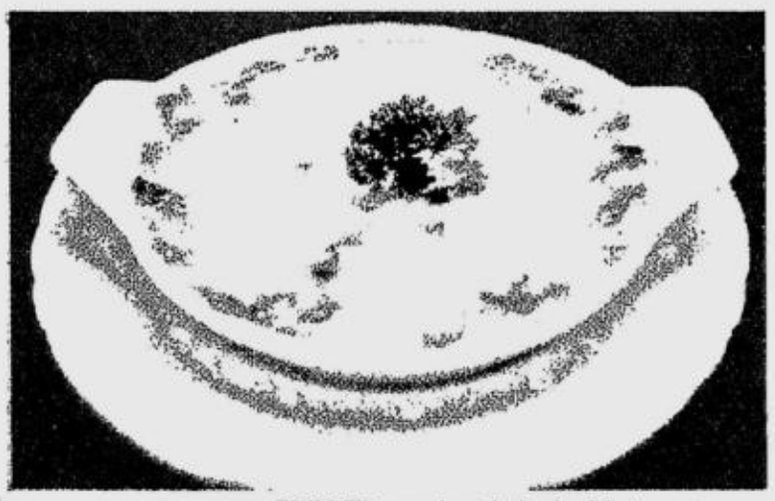
Marilou Senn, president of the Olive Branch Inc. that operates Piu Pazzo, says the place is intended to be a casual eating place and not a fine dining restaurant. "The idea is to accommodate those who crave good Italian food minus the stiff air. We get a lot of families here and kids go gaga over our pizza and gelato," she says.



BROCCOLI sautéed with olive oil, anchovy and garlic

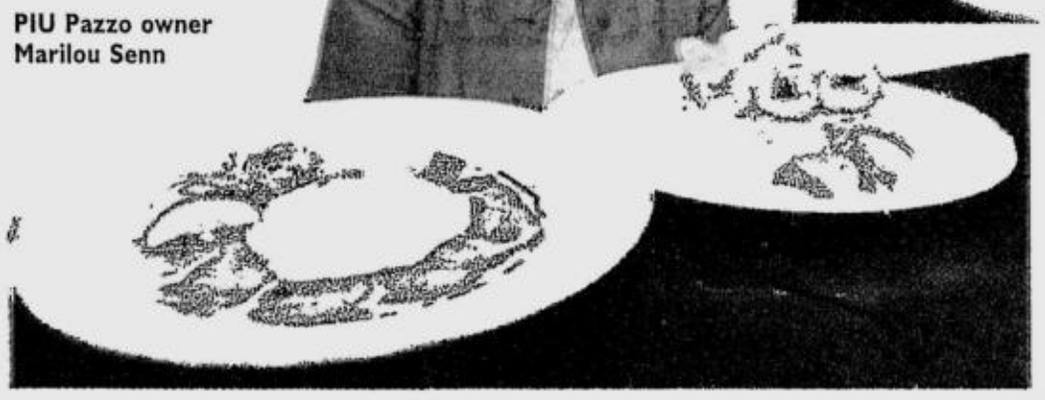


SPAGHETTI Pomodoro with clams



GRILLED eggplant baked with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese

PIU Pazzo owner Marilou Senn



PIU Pazzo is a cozy place where once can savor Italian dishes in the right atmosphere.

Piu Pazzo is the second outlet of Olive Branch, which opened its first Italian restaurant called Pazzo at Rockwell two years ago. "But the [Rockwell] place is a bit small and dark, ideal only for intimate dining," Senn says. "We decided to open a bigger place to welcome big groups."

Senn explains their choice of name (*pazzo* means "crazy" in Italian): "We just thought running a restaurant is already a crazy endeavor because we are competing with more established restaurants." Piu Pazzo, which means "crazier," was chosen "because we opened a second outlet, which is bigger in size and responsibility," Senn adds.

House favorites

Chef Sito Senn, Marilou's son, "rules" the kitchen, making sure everything is fresh and delicious. If you are trying the place for the first time, it's best to start with the antipasti, such as freshly baked Italian bread (focaccia) served with assorted dips, or grilled eggplant baked with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese (Pasticcio di Melanzane). For sandwich-eaters, Piu Pazzo serves two different styles of Italian sandwich. A panini is home-made focaccia with assorted toppings, while a piadina is Italian flat bread folded over assorted fillings. Whether you choose panini or piadina, you can enjoy your sandwich with sautéed mushrooms with salami and gorgonzola cheese (Milano), or sautéed tenderloin with arugula (Fillet e Agricola).

Light-eaters can have a filling pasta prepared with the original combination of anchovy, garlic and broccoli (Aglio Olio e Broccoli), or with shrimp, clams and mushrooms in tomato sauce (Mare e Monte). Others can have a main dish of sautéed chicken topped with a mushroom cream sauce (Cotoletta di Pollo con Marsala e Funghi) or pan-seared catch of the day with shrimp, clams and capers (Pesce del Giorno all a Livornese).

If you want a light, thin-crusted pizza with the freshest toppings, say tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, prosciutto and arugula, try the Al Crudo. Ligurie pizza comes with pesto sauce, shrimp, mozzarella cheese and roasted peppers. But the house's bestseller is Daviola, which has chunks of Hungarian sausage, chili, tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese. You can also taste two pizza flavors in one serving. Simply tell the waiter what you want.

And what is an Italian meal without creamy gelato? You can have a scoop or two of homemade gelato Cioccolato (chocolate) or milk caramel (Dulce de Leche) or a sorbet of Mango or Fragola. There are 40 flavors to choose from, like hazelnut, pistachio, chestnut, Italian cream cheese, tiramisu, amaretto liquor, candied orange, melon, nougat and green apple.

If you cannot decide on what to eat, worry not. The friendly and well-trained service staff will guide you through every step of your meal. In the end you will go "crazy for pizza, pasta and gelato," just like many others who have discovered Piu Pazzo.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

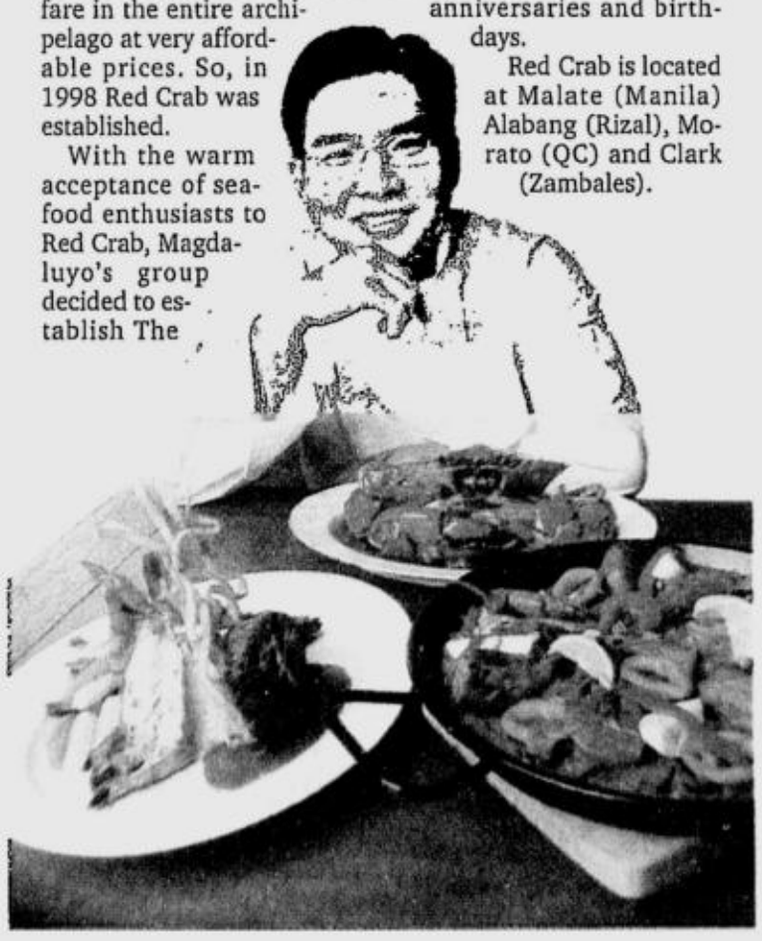
Seafood restaurant opens new outlet at Greenbelt

RAYMUND Magdaluyo is saddened by the fact that most of the best catch from the Philippine seas are either shipped or flown abroad, hence could not enjoyed on the Filipino table. He and his friends thought that Philippine seafood was becoming a delicacy and common fare in Hong Kong and other places—but not here. Together, they developed a dining concept that would bring the best seafood fare in the entire archipelago at very affordable prices. So, in 1998 Red Crab was established.

With the warm acceptance of seafood enthusiasts to Red Crab, Magdaluyo's group decided to establish The Seafood Club Red Crab on the second level of Greenbelt 3. Despite it's A-1 look, The Seafood Club is never imposing and still maintains a relaxed and casual feeling.

There are a dozen varieties of crab dishes to select from—*currachas* from Zamboanga, coconut crabs from Cagayan and Quezon, giant *talangka* from Pampanga and Tarlac. The restaurant also offers catering services for weddings, anniversaries and birthdays.

Red Crab is located at Malate (Manila) Alabang (Rizal), Morato (QC) and Clark (Zambales).



ALOMA Lopez, Ellen Reyes, Sonia Roco, Mayor Sonia Lorenzo of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, and former Sen. Raul Roco

Manileños reunite with 'Mother Spain'

From page E1

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Rodriquez Pantoja

columnist Amando Doronila. World Bank consultant Allan Ortiz sipped his wine carefully while enjoying his cheese and tapas. And the Spanish Ambassador, Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja, occasionally raised his glass of *vino* for a toast.

The event coincided with the birthday of Arthur Reyes, quietly celebrating his 50 summers. Reyes, who hails from San Pablo Laguna, parlayed his little video shop operation into wine import when he saw that people who walked into his shop always asked if he were also selling wines. Eventually, he became the biggest distributor of Fundador in the country.

In 2000, he went into partnership with Torres Wines and Brandy, headed by the suave patriarch, Don Miguel Torres of Barcelona, Spain. No mean feat. Until Reyes came along, the trading behemoth, Jardine Davies, distributed Torres Wines and Brandy in the Philippines. The Spanish winemaker holds a 25 percent stake in ATR Torres Wines Inc., which is now the exclusive Philippine distributor.

"The Torres family is known the world over as winemakers with passion," says Reyes. In 1997, Torres 20 won the gold trophy for best worldwide brandy in the International Wine and Spirits Competition. The family has vineyards in Spain, Chile, California's Sonoma County, and now in China.

Sitting quietly in one corner, the shy, unassuming Filipino partner of Torres Wines waxed happily over the way his birthday party went—a resounding success. Reyes waved his hand at the 2,000 who came to toast Mother Spain--and Torres. With a satisfied smile, he paraphrased the company slogan: "They came because they know. They drink Torres."

EMCEE Johnny Litton with the men from Torres: (from left) Sergio Fiorintini, international product manager; Arthur Reyes, president and chair, ATR Torres Wine Inc.; Dr. Ruel Reyes, general manager; Luis de Javier, legal counsel; Roy Empalmado, director; and Jorge Groce, VP for sales/marketing

Children dress up for Halloween

AT PACIFIC Wharf's Halloween contest, kids were dressed up in colorful costumes. Three-year-old Dulce Alanna Lejarde, resplendent in a Cleopatra getup, won the top prize and P1,500 in gift certificates.

According to Pacific Wharf's marketing manager Aby Valentos, the fun event offered "a safe and worry-free environment for the traditional merrymaking" of Halloween. "We cannot be too careful but, at the same time, we should not deprive kids in enjoying an annual event that will be part of their growing experience."

Other winners of the contest were Angela Burgos, 6, who donned a witch costume, and Harold Tan, 5, as Dracula, who were first and second runners-up, respectively. They won P1,000 and P500 in gift certificates.

Pacific Wharf is a casual dining establishment with outlets at Tomas Morato and the Power Plant, Rockwell Center, Makati. Their kiddie menus of pastas and sandwiches are consistent bestsellers. For the Halloween party, bottomless ice cream with a variety of yummy toppings was served to children 10 years and under.

ANGELA Burgos, second place for Best in Costume; Dulce Alanna Lejarde, first place, and Zoe Mathay, who is dressed as a soldier

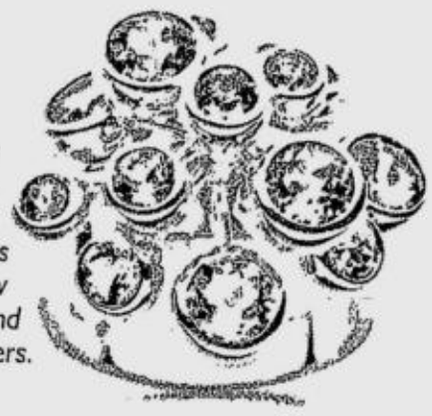
Singapore Special

02 Nov '02 - 15 Feb '03

Disguise
Explore a different identity with admission vouchers to Chinatown Heritage Centre.

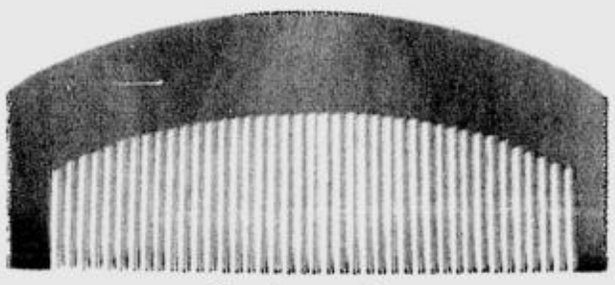
Dining Implement
Chomp your way through irresistible menus with dining vouchers from China Jump and Maison de Fontaine at CHIJMES, Prima Taste @ One Fullerton and selected restaurants/pubs at Boat Quay.*

Night Vision Equipment
Be on the look-out for fascinating creatures, with admission vouchers to the Night Safari.

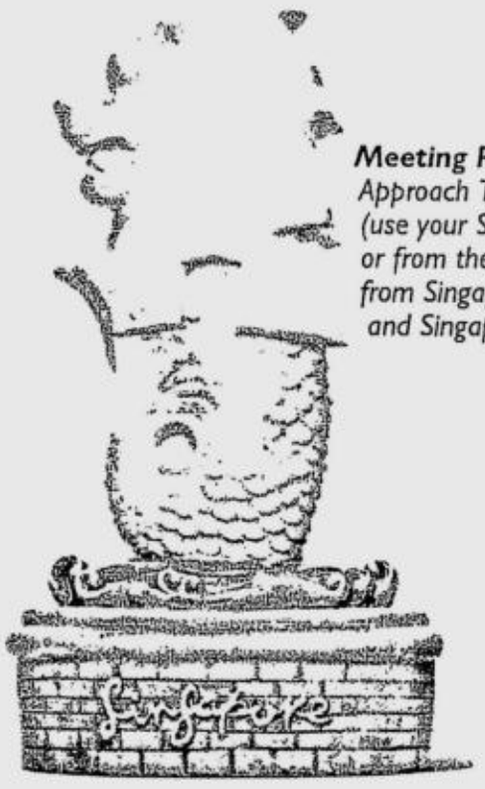


Precious Stones
Bribe your daughter, pamper your wife and even score points with your mother-in-law with Aspial and Lee Hwa Jewellery vouchers.

Free Singapore Visitor Kit worth ₱6,800. (Perfect for those planning a break.)



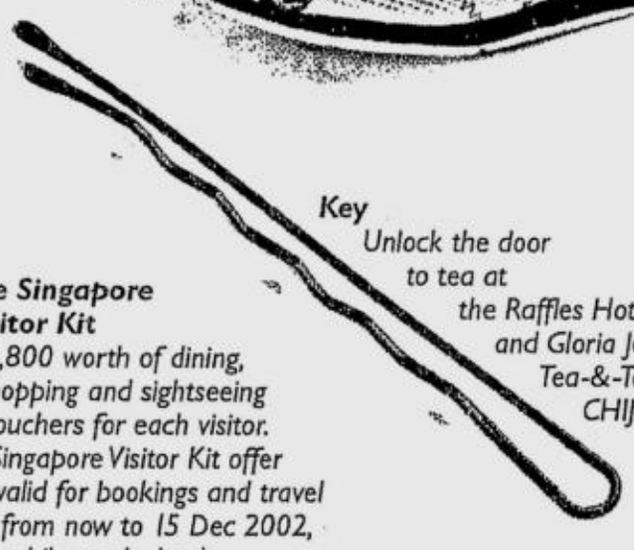
Comb-a-nation
See the Images of Singapore and The Merlion on Sentosa Island; and the wonders of the Singapore Discovery Centre. You'll learn quite a few new things. Admission vouchers provided.



Meeting Point
Approach The Merlion from the air (use your Singapore Cable Car vouchers) or from the sea (use your bumboat vouchers from Singapore River Cruises & Leisure and Singapore Explorer).

Booty Bag
Essential for carrying the prized finds from your shopping expeditions. Shopping vouchers from Funan The IT Mall help pay for them. Be quick, vouchers are for the first 100 early birds only.

Recce
Trek across sprawling grounds with good shoes and admission vouchers to the Singapore Zoo and Jurong BirdPark.



Key
Unlock the door to tea at the Raffles Hotel and Gloria Jean's Tea-&-Tour at CHIJMES.

The Singapore Visitor Kit
P6,800 worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for each visitor. Singapore Visitor Kit offer valid for bookings and travel from now to 15 Dec 2002, while stocks last†.

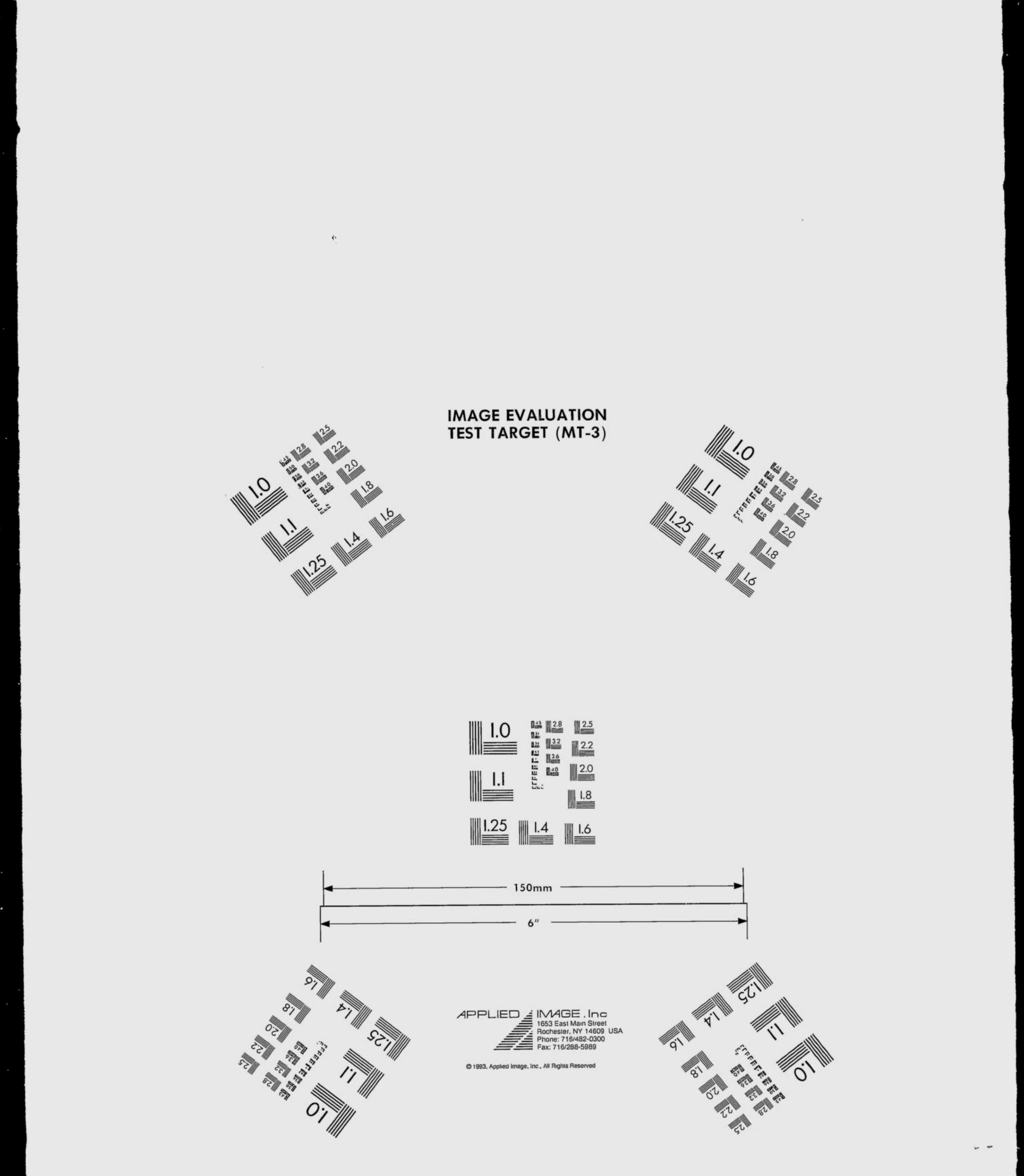
†Terms and conditions apply.

In Singapore, the weeks between 2 November 2002 and 15 February 2003 are the year's most colourful. It's a huge experience of events, lights, tastes and irresistible shopping. And the best part is, every visitor gets P6,800 (SGD240) worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for the trip! Ask your travel agent for details.

Live it up! Singapore
www.visitsingapore.com

*The Penny Black, Harry's Bar, Curry House, Lago Seafood Restaurant, Harvest Seafood Restaurant, BQ Bar, Maharajah Boat Quay, Asian Wok Restaurant and Molly Malone's.

For more information, please call Singapore Tourism Board, c/o Nancy Harel & Associates, Inc. Tel: 02-636-0258. Fax: 02-636-0259. Email: stbphils@pacific.net.ph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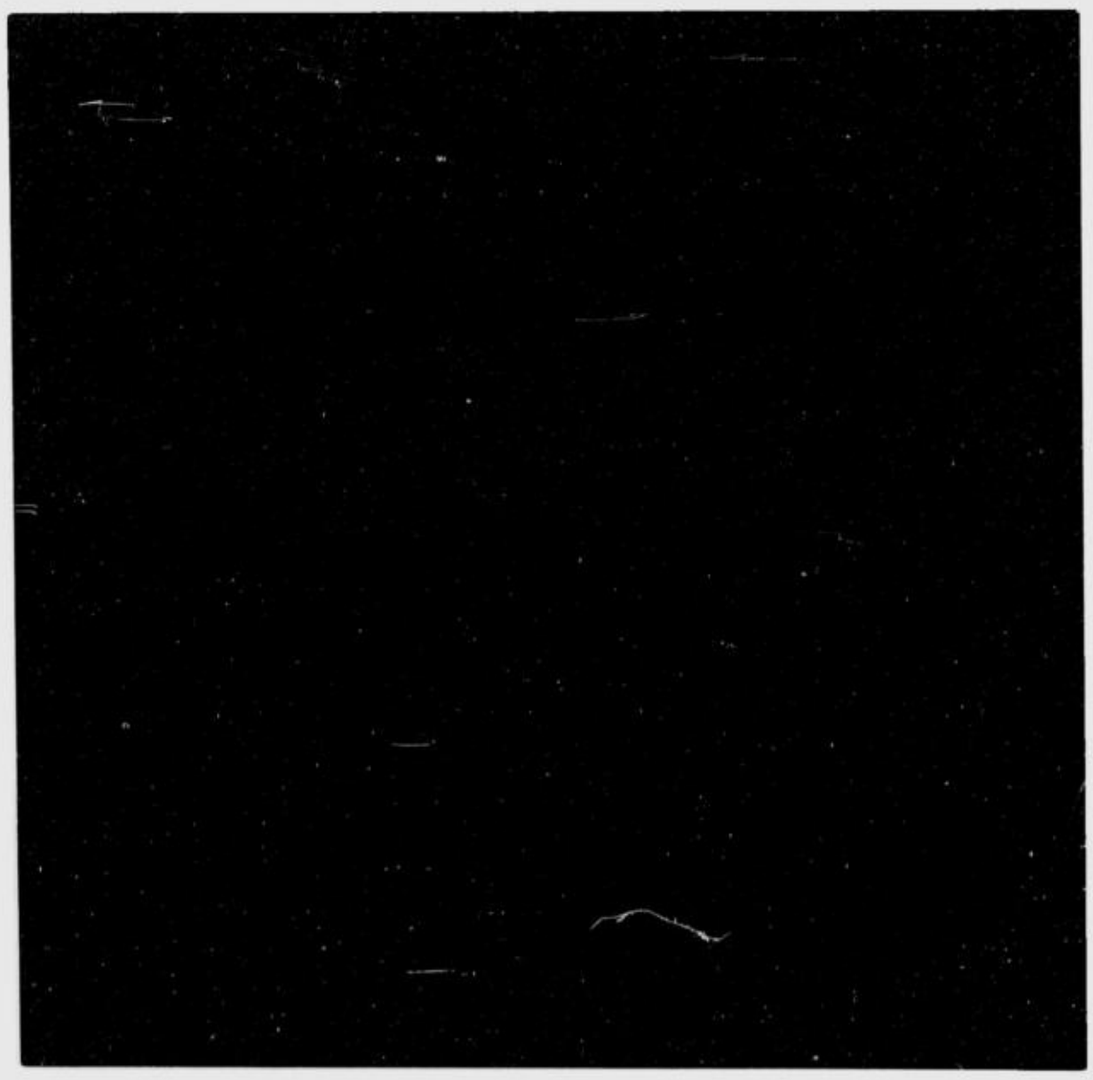

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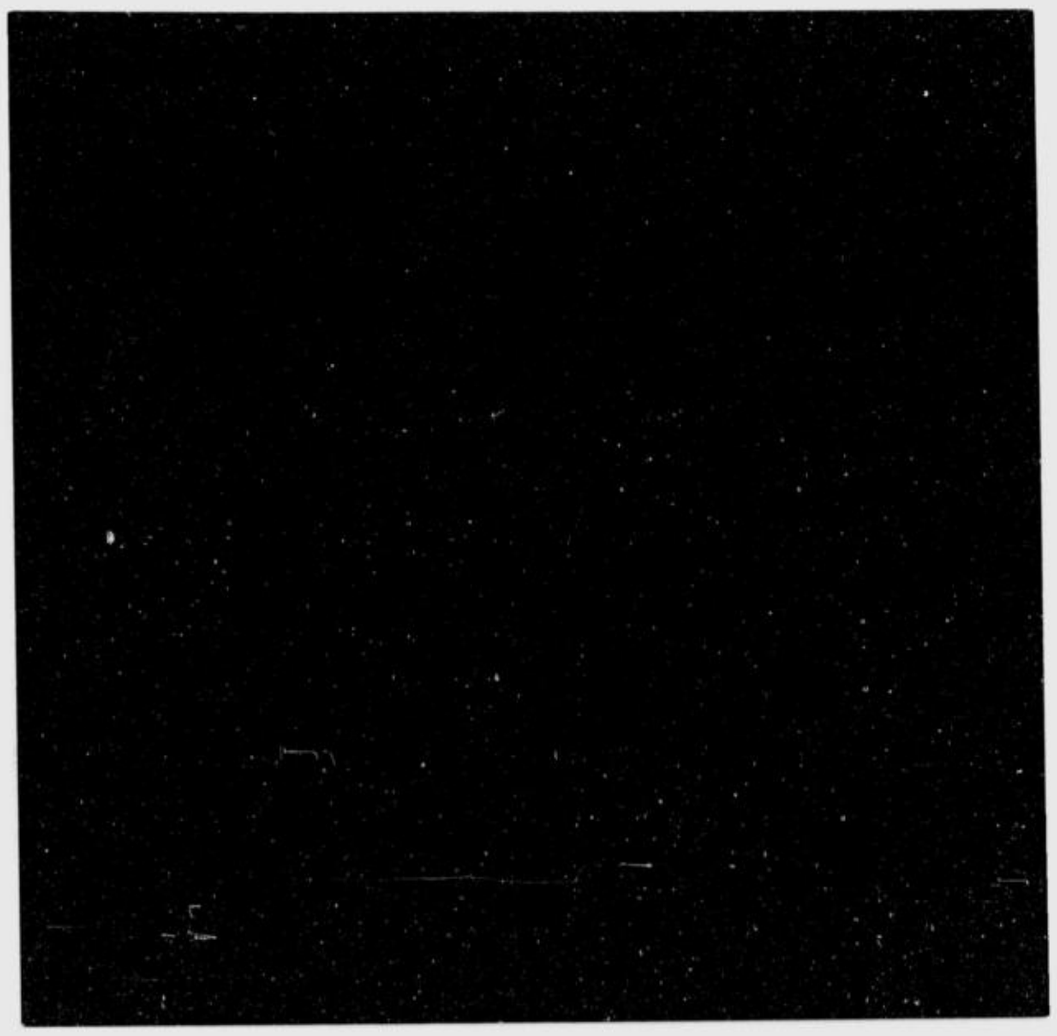

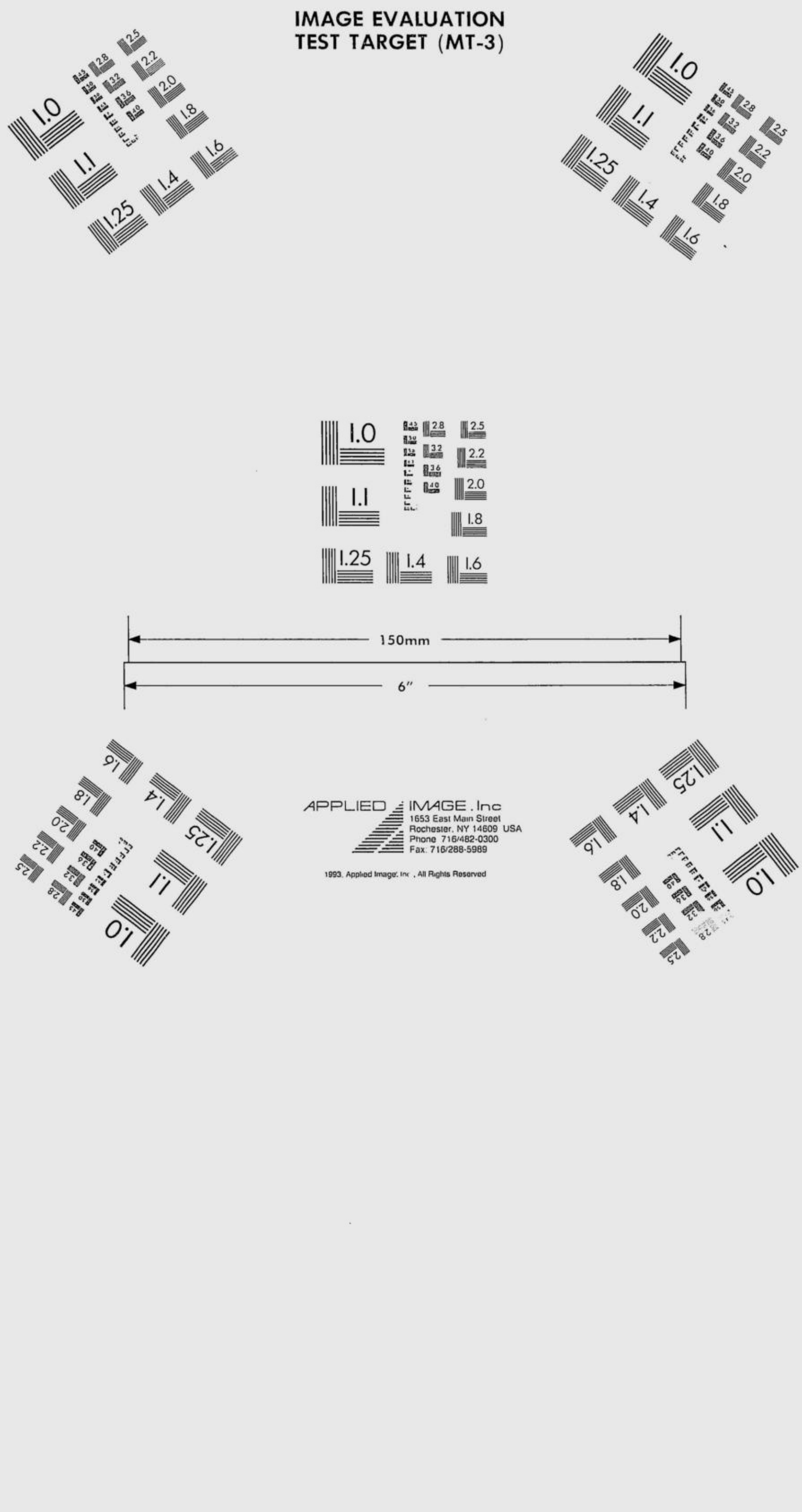
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